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BOSTON CELTICS PRIDE

Volume 1, Issue 4
December 9, 1985

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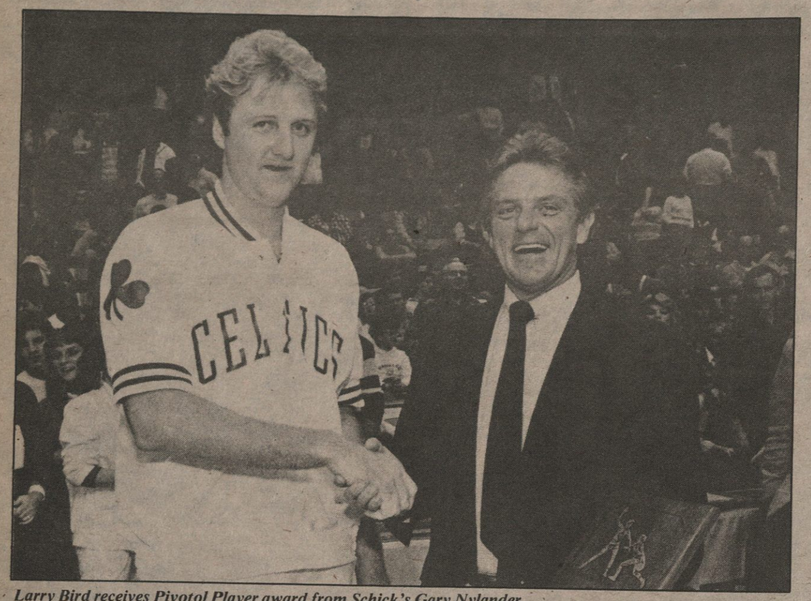
Bird Receives Celtics Schick Pivotal Player Award



Larry Bird receives Pivotol Player award from Schick's Gary Nylander.

At halftime of the Celtics November 13th game at home against the Indiana Pacers, Larry Bird was presented with a special plaque by Gary Nylander of Schick. Bird was being honored as the Celtics Schick Pivotal Player of 1985.

The Schick Pivotal Player Award is a computerized statistical compilation to determine mathematically the best player in the NBA. Bird finished second in the entire National Basketball Association, to Chicago's Michael Jordan.

Following are the top 10 finishers in the computerized ratings for the 1985 Schick Pivotal Player Award:

Rank	Player, Team	Rating
1.	Michael Jordan, Chicago Bulls	.279
2.	Larry Bird, Boston Celtics	.277
3.	Moses Malone, Philadelphia 76ers	.262
4.	Isiah Thomas, Detroit Pistons	.261
5.	Magic Johnson, Los Angeles Lakers	.257
6.	Jack Sikma, Seattle SuperSonics	.245
7.	Buck Williams, New Jersey Nets	.240
8.	Akeem Olajuwon, Houston Rockets	.239
(tie)	Artis Gilmore, San Antonio Spurs	.239
10.	Mark Eaton, Utah Jazz	.217

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VOLUME 1, ISSUE 4
DECEMBER 9, 1985

Cover...

Recently acquired Bill Walton is known for his love of nature and the outdoors. Celtics' photographer Steve Lipofsky captured Bill admiring Boston Harbor and the Constitution.

Features...

4 ..... Really Big Shoes
Basketball shoes come in all sizes, mostly huge when it pertains to the Celtics.

7 ..... The Centers of Attention
The Celtics centers, Robert Parish, Bill Walton and Greg Kite each have well defined roles.

8 ..... Bill Walton
Always a Celtics fan, Bill is now in an excellent situation at this particular time in his career.

13 ..... Patrick Ewing
The celebrated rookie is doing his job but "savior" may be out of his range.

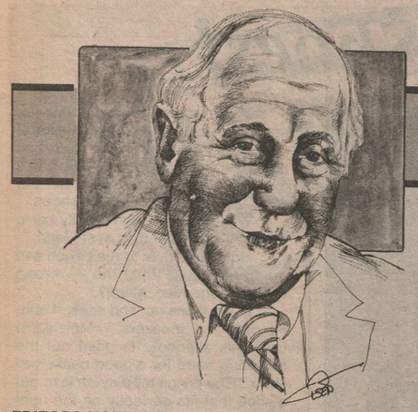
14 ..... Rick Carlisle
This backup guard knew he was in for a battle to earn a spot on the Celtics roster, but he made it.

15 ..... You Don't Know Me
For 16 years, Francis O'Bryant has been sitting on the Celtics bench.

24 .. Sly Williams Likes His Role
Here's a player who is playing less and enjoying it more.

Departments...

3 — Ask Red
6 — Innerview - Tom Heinsohn
11 — K.C.'s Corner
12 — M.L. Carr
16 — Celtics Poster
18 — Celtics Confidential
19 — Game-By-Game Review
20 — Eddie Gillooly
21 — Mark Murphy
22 — Glenn Ordway
26 — NBA Notebook
28 — Celtics Calendar
30 — Celtics Classics
31 — Celtics Greats



Ask Red Auerbach

EDITORS NOTE: "Ask Red Auerbach" is a regular feature of Celtics Pride. If you have a question for Red, please send it to Celtics Pride, 49 Locust Avenue, New Canaan, Connecticut 06840. Red will answer as many as possible in each issue.

QUESTION: Why isn't rookie guard Sam Vincent getting more playing time so far this season? Wouldn't experience be the best teacher for him?

Harold Olsen
Watertown, MA

RED'S ANSWER: On a team as good as ours, it's hard for anyone to get as much playing time as he might want -- especially a rookie. But Sam Vincent does get a lot of playing time, everyday in practice. When we drafted him we thought we had grabbed one of the better guards in the draft, and we still think so. But we have three very fine veteran guards ahead of Sam on the team. It's entirely up to K.C. Jones to decide who plays and when; he sees all of our players everyday in practice and is the best judge of their abilities. K.C. himself spent the first few years of his career as a back-up; he may not have liked it that way, but he never complained, and when Bob Cousy retired and K.C. got his chance to start and play full-time, he was ready. Sam Vincent will get his chance. It's up to him to take advantage of the chance to play against great players every day in practice to prepare himself for that chance. It is only the really exceptional player who can step in and become a star in his first year in the NBA, players like Pat Ewing, Ralph Sampson or Larry Bird.

QUESTION: Does the Celtics management have any control over smoking and drinking by players?

Arthur Danforth
Winchester, MA

RED'S ANSWER: We're fortunate that we don't have any real smokers on our present team, but I remember that we had several members of our teams in the 70's who would light up as soon as they could after a game. As far as drinking goes, we naturally discourage it, but we have no problem with guys having a couple of beers after a game. I was very surprised recently to find our that they're serving beer in college arenas, on the campuses, even though so many of the fans in the stands, including most of the college kids, were obviously under the legal drinking age.

QUESTION: When will the NBA All-Star Game next be held in Boston? Why has it been so long?

Barbara Winter
Woburn, MA

RED'S ANSWER: It's been a long time since we've had an All-Star Game here in Boston and I don't expect that we'll have one in the near future. The NBA needs the host team for the All-Star game to put aside 2500 to 3000 of the best seats in the house, and we just can't do that. If we take out 2500 seats for other teams management and media, we'd need to displace that many season ticketholders, and I just won't allow that. A few years ago, the All-Star Game was scheduled here, and we passed on having the game for that reason.

QUESTION: What recourse do you have when a referee has a particularly bad game? Can you ask that he not be assigned to any more Celtics games?

Brian Crowley
Quincy, MA

RED'S ANSWER: No, we have no control over which officials are assigned to do our games. One thing we can do is send a tape of the game to Scotty Stirling, the league's Vice-President of Operations to show him your specific objections to that official. The officials are assigned to each game by the NBA office, and the teams not only have no voice in that selection, we don't even know who the officials will be until they walk into the building. One more thing -- at the end of each season, the league sends a questionnaire to each head coach asking him to pick the best and worst officials. They compile these lists and ferret out the worst of the group each year, bringing in new people to replace them.

QUESTION: Does the Player Association have any say about rule changes?

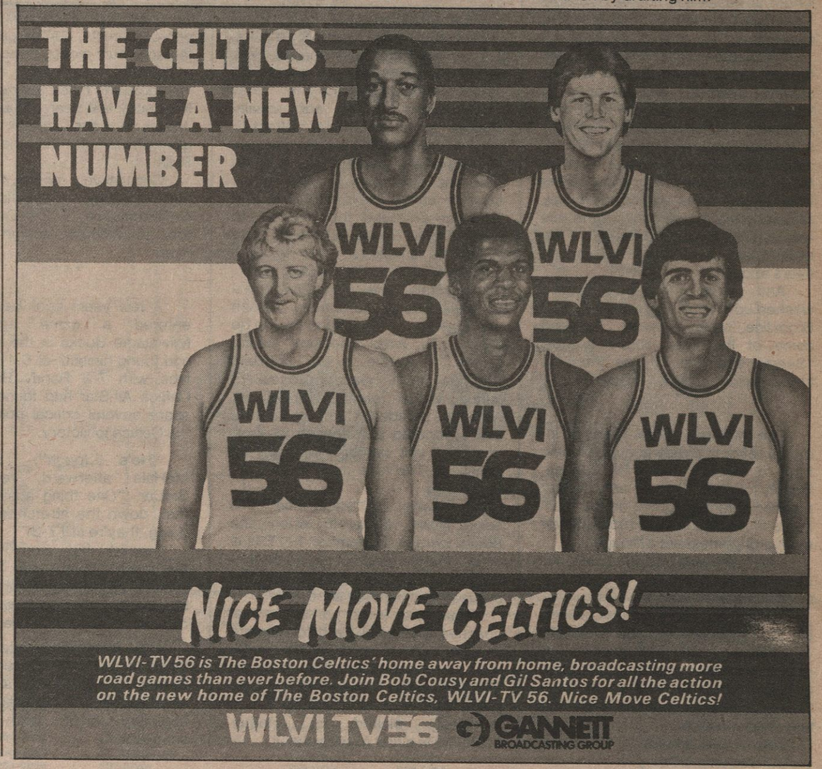
Joseph Streeter
Boston, MA

RED'S ANSWER: No. They sometimes can recommend things, but I don't think there is any set procedure.

QUESTION: What are your impressions of Manute Bol?

Davis Palmer
W. Hartford, CT

RED'S ANSWER: Manute Bol is going to be a very good basketball player. He runs the court pretty well for a guy his size, he's got good reactions, and he can block anybody's shots on defense. Best of all, believe it or not, he's a good athlete. And he's much stronger than people seem to think. Sure, he could afford to gain a few pounds to prevent him from being pushed around by the big guys in the league, but he's going to prove to be a real player, in my opinion. He was definitely worth the chance the Bullets have taken by drafting him.



Really Really Big Shoes!

On any morning when the Celtics practice, a familiar sound is an eerie collective screech. Bouncing basketballs, happy shouts of the perennially young athletes, and screeching basketball shoes change direction suddenly. Large, black, and coveted, the sneakers have an interesting origin, "life", and history surrounding them.

Celtics Equipment Manager Wayne Lebeaux, under his mentor trainer Ray Melchiorre, has central responsibility for ordering and maintaining proper care of the Celtics' footwear.

"Three things are important," Lebeaux stated in a recent interview. "Design, size, and comfort."

"Bill Walton has a history of ankle problems. So he uses a shoe which has special padding around the top, and strong arch supports inside the shoe. Like most of the players, he's had a special shoe made up for him, the "Top Ten", which sell for $65."

This incidental is a parcel of the whole area. Larry Bird is wearing a new sneak this season: leather on the outside and canvas within. Rick Carlisle has an unusual foot; his length is basketball normal,i.e., Size 14½. But the width of the foot is AA, exceedingly thin and narrow.

A basketball season is a shoe factory in microcosm. Lebeaux is constantly ordering and re-ordering shoes, "anywhere from 25 to 30 pair a season," according to his estimate. It is here sneaker representatives, agents, and team co-mingle. "I need to be persistent," acknowledges Wayne. He smiles slowly, seemingly remembering moments when he has had to push an order through. "If the order's late, the (sneaker) company hears about it."

And when the sneaker is---washed up? "Well, I know a woman in Brookline,"says Lebeaux. "I send some of the used shoes to her. "Seems she likes to use them as flower pots."

*****

The history of the sneaker industry reflects a redwood developing from a humble seed. K.C.Jones, Coach of the Celtics and former premier defensive guard on the team in the fifties and sixties, recalls never even giving sneakers a thought.

"All I knew is the club paid for them and I put 'em on," he says. "I used five pair a season.

"What's happened is that basketball has stepped into the forefront, especially on TV. The sneaker industry is a complex competing business. Companies pay to have their logos seen repeatedly on the television medium.

Tom McLaughlin, Converse representative and a former coach himself says, "We're proud to have K.C. Jones wearing our sneaks. He's a fine person and therefore an excellent spokesman for the firm."

Left to Right: Parish, size 16 — Walton, size 17 — Kite, size 16, Above shoe belongs to Wayne le Beaux, size 8½.

Although players are usually thought to be the most attractive targets for promoting shoes, coaches are important people, too. Jones uses the Converse product at his summer camp. He'll also have the footwear on hand for campers to wear if they desire. Contests have Converse sneakers, T-shirts, and posters as prizes in this setting, too.

Don Nelson has played a role in a continuing saga this autumn. Nelson has argued with the league that he be allowed to wear sneakers during games. A league by-law prohibits coaches from wearing sneakers during actual game competition; Nellie has paraded, stomped, cursed, and advocated this season in sport coat, tie, suit pants, and taped up sneakers. The tape covers the Converse logo.

"I'm making a stand on this issue,"Nellie declared when the Bucks were in, November 1. "This is what I like to teach in, and I think it helps my approach during games to be wearing a practice shoe."

What is at issue partially is that coaches are not allowed to promote sneaker wear in games. The money can be phenomenal; for example, Michael Jordan has a reported base salary with Nike of $500 000 and reportedly picked up another $225,00 in a first royalty check.

Even this coup was related to non-conformity. Jordan garnered this fantastic sum mostly through the sale of the "Air Jordan" shoe, a red sneak with growling black tiger stripes. The NBA,early last year, refused to allow Jordan to wear a sneak which was glaringly different than the rest of the Bulls!

Cumulatively though, the industry has progressed a significant distance. From five K.C.'s Celtics black tops to Michael's million dollar red flyers.

*****

A few years ago, Kevin McHale entered a game against the Milwaukee Bucks in the 4th quarter and found himself, at 6-10½, face to face with 7-3 Randy Breuer. The Celtics All-Star had found a way to score several critical points to lead the Celtics to victory.

"He's tough", commented McHale afterward, referring to Breuer. "One thing about guys like that, down the stretch in the tough going, they're still 7-3!"

Indeed; big men remain big, throughout their lives. Bob Lanier wore a historic size 22 shoe, and the locker room seemed to wobble when he walked out to do battle.

Ray Melchiorre recalls a game when Jack Marin, former Bullet and Buffalo Brave sharpshooter simultaneously suffered an off shooting night and shredded sneakers.

"There was some kind of mix-up, so Marin had to tape up his sneakers---we didn't have an extra pair that night,"recalls Melchiorre. "So he's missing, and meanwhile, all the stitching is coming out of his shoes.

"Well, the fans didn't really care, and they started getting over Marin.

"He comes over to the bench and a fan yells out, 'What the --- wrong with your shooting, Marin?'

"Marin looks up, and says, 'I dunno, ask my sneakers.'" Melchiorre uses this aneodote to point out the simplified need for a good basketball shoe. "The thing I tell players is to get a shoe that fits perfectly on the right foot and one that fits perfectly on the left. The athlete has to ask whether the shoe is adequate for what his body will do."

With all the cutting, stopping, running fast and then suddenly slow, the sneaker has to hold up," adds Lebeaux.

Sneakers are at bottom another material and human facet of the professional game. Melchiorre laments the type of funneling which has reached contracts the size of Nike's with Michael Jordan.

"Players like Michael and Larry Bird to a lesser extent receive large contracts and players at a lesser level lose their fiscal leverage with companies.

"Even a player of Dennis Johnson's stature is forced into a position of having to negotiate a new contract. Players want to remain loyal to their original company, that's the funny part. But because so much money is going in few directions, the players down the line are forced to struggle."

Lebeaux points out that a player like Carlos Clark last season didn't receive any money. "Just shoes, suits to work out in, bags, other equipment, "Lebeaux says.

Safety is involved. "I looked out on the floor in the Phoenix game," says Melchiorre. "(Rick) Robey is running around with taped up shoes because he hasn't signed with a company and he's wearing an old pair. He wasn't running right, didn't look right."

The glory which fits into these screeching sneakers is short-lived, too. Lebeaux remembers lending a friend a pair of sneaks to wear at a masquerade party. The friend wore the oversized shoes at the end of a clown's barb.

"Anything over 6-4 is a handicap in everyday life," cautions Lebeaux. "I tell these guys that. What do you do after basketball?

"The players are forced to order special clothes and shoes. They're phoning tailors, shoemakers...

"We joke---6-4 now is great, but after ball, they want to 'grow up' and be 6-1."

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Innerview

Tommy Heinsohn

One of the most significant names in Celtics lore is Tommy Heinsohn. A 6-7 forward out of Holy Cross, Heinsohn joined Boston in 1956-57 and became an instant star. He spent nine years with the Celtics and had career averages of 18.9 points and 8.6 rebounds a game. Heinsohn was an integral part of eight Celtics championship teams.

"Tom Heinsohn was a tough kid and the ideal forward," Red Auerbach once said. "He could do it all: great offensive rebounding, great moves, great shots–including a beautiful soft hook. He could even play great defense when he felt like it. And as Frank Ramsey used to say, Tommy would down his grandmother for two points.

"Heinsohn was a winner. Period."

He was also a winner as a coach. Heinsohn piloted the Celtics to two NBA titles (1973-74 and 1975-76), compiling a 427-263 record during his eight-plus years as Boston's coach. Heinsohn was one of the more emotional coaches around, not adverse to throwing towels, kicking water coolers and berating officials. The latter seemed to be his favorite pastime.

Heinsohn was fired 34 games into the forgettable 1977-78 season. Since then he has been able to concentrate on a broadcasting career, which currently sees him as an analyst of Celtics games on the SportsChannel. Heinsohn also works on CBS's NBA telecasts.

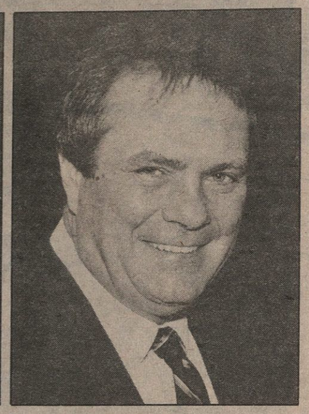
Celtics Pride recently chatted with Heinsohn...

CELTICS PRIDE: How did you get into broadcasting?

HEINSOHN: I started years ago, when I was a player. The first job I got, I was walking down the street in Worcester and ran into a guy who owned a radio station. He asked me if I wanted to do a sports show. I said, "Fine." Then, Red Auerbach got me a job on TV and I did games for Providence College. I never did go out and make plans. My broadcasting career just sort of happened. It was a combination of a lot of things I was doing.

CELTICS PRIDE: You work for a local TV outlet and a major network. What's the difference?

HEINSOHN: Each one has its place. The local SportsChannel is well developed so that we know the Celtics fans are interested in the NBA and understand the game. The network is different--the telecasts are beamed throughout the country, and you're not even sure if the people watching are basketball fans. Our object is to satisfy the Celtics fans, the network wants to get people interested in basketball to build ratings. Each one has its own challenges.



Tommy's broadcasting career just sort of happened.

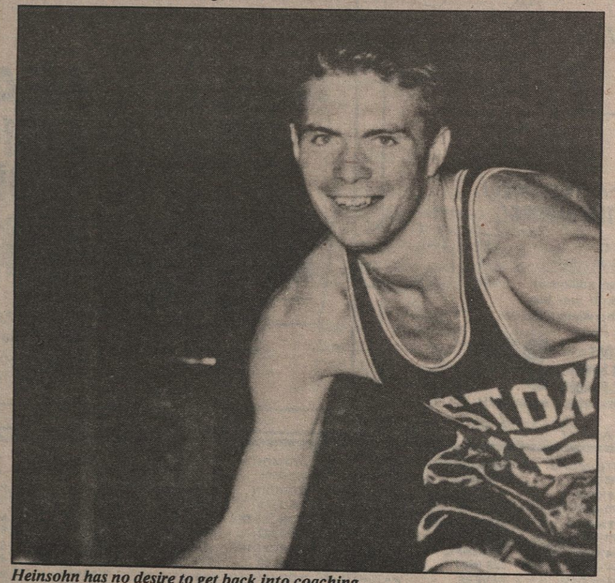
CELTICS PRIDE: What impact have you had on the CBS telecasts?

HEINSOHN: I never believed the NBA was broadcast properly to bring out the best in the game. Before I got there, the object of the color man was to show stars people could relate to--Dr. J, Moses. But the game is so fast they could never bring one guy out and let the game speak for itself. Now they do that--it's an exciting package to look at. Every game is like a novel, it has a story line. I try to brush stroke each team and its style to allow fans to understand the style of the game-- the fast break team against a slowdown team.

Instead of showing replays of guys making stuffs, they show replays of guys filling the lanes in the fast break. People are starting to understand strategy a bit.

CELTICS PRIDE: You've been criticized for being pro-Celtics on the CBS games. What's your reaction?

HEINSOHN: In Boston, I was a little to the left of Benedict Arnold. In LA, they thought I was pro-Celtics. I was giving the good and bad points of both teams. They (listeners) aren't used to hearing bad points about their team. I also brought out the good points of the other team-- I wasn't critical. They thought I was knocking their team.



Heinsohn has no desire to get back into coaching.

CELTICS PRIDE: Do you miss coaching?

HEINSOHN: No. All the interest I had in coaching was from the creative side-- new ways of doing things, new answers to old problems. That's fulfilled by my CBS and SportsChannel telecasts. The ratings (at CBS) have gone up all over the country. They've never telecast basketball the way they are now--what different pictures to show how it all ties together. I've had a strong influence in that. TV critics in places like Albuquerque call me and say pro basketball has a side they've never seen before.

CELTICS PRIDE: You had a chance to coach the Houston Rockets before Bill Fitch took the job. Why did you turn down that chance?

HEINSOHN: After being around the NBA a number of years as a player and coach, I had proven there was life after basketball. The money at Houston wasn't right. Second of all, I didn't feel I would've had enough control of the personnel I would've liked.

I'd done it before--I had the full roller-coaster ride of a coach. I'd had every thrill you could have in basketball.

CELTICS PRIDE: How did you feel when the Celtics fired you in 1977-78?

HEINSOHN: I wasn't too happy about it at the time. It's not pleasant to get fired. It did affect me for a long time--it would affect anybody. I knew it was part of the game. I've had many opportunities to get back into coaching that haven't been made public. I decided to make another world for myself, and that's what I did. I took what I learned from playing and coaching and applied them to other things.

CELTICS PRIDE: Would you preclude re-entering coaching?

HEINSOHN: You never say never. I'm 51 now, and it's a grueling life to live--a young man's life. I was on a plane once with the Indiana Pacer coach (George Irvine) and we had a 1½ hour discussion about the fast break. I enjoyed that. I still like basketball and the strategy side, but I've made another life for myself.

The Centers of Attention

Parish, Walton and Kite

By Bob Schron

"Name a better potential frontline ever than Larry Bird, Robert Parish, Kevin McHale and a healthy Bill Walton off the bench."
--- Jack McCallum, Sports Illustrated

Envision these individual scenarios, perhaps spliced together in a Celtics highlight film. First, there is Robert Parish, he of the long legs, slender waist, powerful upper torso. The C's are running an offensive series against the Detroit Pistons. Parish, from the low post left, suddenly long-steps into the lane. Receiving the pass on a count within the set play, Parish spins for a turnaround jumper.

He's swiftly on the move, but he's still able to face up for the jumper. Outjumping Bill Laimbeer, Parish swishes the shot by using his large hands for perfect control.

Enter Bill Walton into the imaginary cinematic series. It's late in the game. The Celtics have rallied from a five-point deficit in the final three minutes and Larry Bird has the ball on the left wing. Walton---bandaged knees, lean body, animated redhead---rushes up to set a full pick on Dominique Wilkins.

Bird drives, uses the screen while Walton rolls toward to the basket. Larry backhands a high pass to Walton as Kevin Willis switches over to block Bill's path. Too late; Walton receives the pass and in one motion, dunks. Left-handed. High fives and Garden exhiliration.

* * * * *

The Celtics pose an intriguing basketball question to hoop experts and public alike this season. Can two superstars play at this highest of levels and simultaneously be role players?

Greg Kite, the 3-year veteran center from Brigham Young, will provide further backup strength to the duo.

* * * * *

"The idea of a role is subtle on one hand, and very simple on the other," claims Jimmy Rodgers, Celtics Assistant Coach and Director of Player Personnel. "A player makes it in this league because he is intelligent enough to play to his strengths."

"But this can not make him limited; he can't pass up an open shot if it's high percentage, even if his role isn't one of shooting.

"A role player is a player who accepts his place on the team and makes the plays necessary to win."

Robert Parish, Bill Walton, and Greg Kite personify this interweaving Rodgers' description. Parish's and Walton's roles are defined by time. Parish, with Walton playing off the bench, is able to play his hardest without concern about wearing out in the late states of individual games and over the full season.

Kite, Parish and Walton each have roles and are happy with them.

"Walton's role?" Coach K.C. Jones asks rhetorically. "His role is to play anywhere from 20-24 minutes, most nights. And play like Bill Walton."

Kite's job is more clearly defined. If Parish and/or Walton are fatigued or in foul trouble, the improved Kite will play.

"I'm the State Farm Insurance on this team, the State Farm Insurance in Gulf Port, Mississippi when the hurricanes pass through," Kite jokes. "When the other centers go down or get in foul trouble, I go in."

On a more serious note, Kite continues, "My job on the floor is to be solid, do what the coaches expect. I know I won't get an extended amount of time." He lists the areas he concentrates on: "Defense, boxing out, setting picks, eliminate turnovers.

"We run the same things on offense when I'm on the floor. What I do depends on whether I'm in with Bill, or with Robert and Scotty (Wedman).

"I'd drop the 20-foot jumper more often, but we don't want to expose too many of our weapons," he deadpans, and then breaks into his characteristic low, continuous laughter.

* * * * *

Parish and Walton respond in generalities when asked about their respective roles. While their answers shed only clues to how they perform best within the total team scheme, in another way, they answer the question quite satisfactorily.

Parish says, "I don't think about roles specifically. But now, I feel as if I have a new lease on life with Bill on the bench. And with the overall talent around me, I don't have to worry about my offense. When it's not going, I won't worry about it. My role? 'Play hard.' "

Walton played some power forward in San Diego under Jimmy Lynam but he calls it "more of a double post." His passing game and basketball awareness likely originate from his having played guard as a freshman and sophomore in high school. "My general ideas of a role---and it is general---is get the ball to who's going well, seek out the right spot on the floor in the set offense, and keep the ball moving. And **always** defense and rebounding." Any other parts to your role? "Win!" He declares. Follow-ups to the question bring the same response: "Win!" It is uttered with comprehensive athletic confidence.

One conjectures: Parish is more offensive-thinking. Walton is mindful "always---defense and rebounding." But the approach of both star-players is team-oriented. Each player's role is to play all-out in every phase and when fatigue sets in, turn the game minutes over to the other (super-) star.

"Minutes always matter to a player," observes Chris Ford, Assistant Coach. "Yet at this stage of Bill's career, and after all the misery of his injuries, I believe he's ready to play hard off the bench."

"Minutes don't matter," asserts Walton.

"A team's strategy when playing the Celtics used to be 'Go at Robert' ", commented Ray Williams. "Now there's no advantage to doing that. Robert and Bill are equally outstanding.

The critical factor is team chemistry. Red Auerbach has continuously insisted throughout his career that basketball remains a simple game. This, from a brilliant student of the game and of the basketball player's psyche. Bill Walton has ached for another spirited try at an attainable title. Last season he played in 67 games, two more than the '76-77 title season in Portland. When Walton called "looking for a job" in Boston, Auerbach thoughtfully listened. One of Red's "winning concepts" is obtain a player who has a history of winning.

"A new lease on life," friend and former coach Paul Silas calls Walton's time in Boston.

* * * * *

The centers of the Celtics form a potent force. They run the floor, hunger for offense, block shots. They pass expertly, swat shots, trigger the fast break. They are secure insurance.

Through the early part of the season---and it is still early---Parish and Walton combined for 20 ppg and 16 rebounds per contest.

It is commonplace in team sports that the player who plays least is the most verbally observant. Greg Kite marvels at his teammates.

"Both are great defensive players and rebounders.

"Bill's a spectacular passer but Robert is very effective at finding the open man.

"Bill, with Larry, has helped influence the whole team's ball movement and help out defense. Even the coaches have picked up on that."

The Celtics centers complete the imaginary highlight film---by performing full throttle for entire games. The collective pressure from the game's critical position for entire games promises enjoyable viewing for Celtics followers.

Honored to be on such a Great Team

Bill Walton is Right Where He Wanted To Be

By Tony Cooper

It was 1981, and Bill Walton, then of the San Diego Clippers, had suffered another one of his multitude of foot injuries. At that point, it appeared that the redhead would never be seen on the hardwood again.

"Doctors told me I was never going to play again," Walton says. "I walked with a limp and was in pain 24 hours a day. They told me I should find a desk job."

Walton consequently enrolled in law school at Stanford University. And while that endeavor kept him busy for a year-and-a-half, the urge to resume his NBA career burned within him.

Four years later, Walton is back--and not at an office job, either. He's now a member of the Celtics, filling in at center and forward for the likes of Robert Parish, Kevin McHale and Larry Bird. The Celtics acquired Walton, in an involved and protracted trading process, from the Clippers for forward Cedric Maxwell and cash in early September.

Walton spent three years with the San Diego/Los Angeles Clippers after his 1982 return to the NBA. Joining the Celtics, though, is one of the best things to happen in Walton's basketball world in quite some time.

"To come and be part of this tradition is a dream come true."

"It's an honor and a pleasure to be on such a great team," Walton says. "It's an opportunity to go out and make the most of a good situation. This is a great team to play on.

"I was a Celtics fan growing up in San Diego (Walton was born and raised in LaMesa, a nearby suburb). All the Celtics, particularly Bill Russell, were my favorites. To come and be part of this tradition is a dream come true for me."

The Celtics are equally happy to have Walton wearing the green and whites.

"Bill gives us great awareness of the game from the center position," Boston scout M.L. Carr says. "He compliments Robert Parish well. The tendency is when a substitution is made, to let down. That doesn't happen now. Opposing centers have got to play as hard whether Walton or Parish is in the game. Walton knows how to win. He's a big plus for the team."

You can't let down against Walton.

Walton, after a slow start, has been quite productive in his spot role. Averaging about 20 minutes a game, Walton is averaging 8.6 points, 5.6 rebounds, 1.7 assists and 1.0 blocks. The 33-year-old frontcourter has been displaying the talents that make him perhaps the most versatile big man ever to play the game.

From his days at Helix High School to UCLA to the Portland Trail Blazers to the Clippers, Walton has always been regarded as "The Franchise." However, that's not the case here in Boston. Walton is a role player, and can contribute bits and pieces when necessary. He doesn't have to get 30 points and 20 rebounds every night.

"The Celtics have the attitude that they're going to win every game. I like that attitude."

"I enjoy that," Walton says. "This is the first team I've been on since UCLA that is an established power. The team was a power before I got here. Red Auerbach has done a great job in molding the franchise. This is a fantastic situation to be in."

Even with playing just 20 minutes a game?

"I'm on a team that's going to put me in for 15, 20 or 30 minutes to do whatever it takes to win a game. The Celtics have the attitude that they're going to win every game. I like that attitude.

"One of my strengths is that I can do a variety of things. I'm called on to do different things on different nights."

Says Coach K.C. Jones: "Walton remains one of the best players in the league, particularly in the role we have for him. He's doing what he does best--contributing on the boards, blocking shots and playing defense--that's Walton's role. He's a very busy guy on that end of the court.

"Mainly, he gives us what I want to see-- a strong effort. Bill showed that kind of intensity during training camp and the exhibition season. That was a pleasant surprise."

Celtics television commentator Bob Cousy, a former Boston great, feels Walton's new niche fits him just fine.

"Every jock wants to play all the time," Cousy says, "but I've got to believe Bill will have no difficultly subjugating that instinct here, because playing on a team like this is a nice, comfortable way to go out.

"This is where I wanted to play. I couldn't be happier. I'm having the time of my life here."

"You put him on a weaker team, and there's pressure on him to produce, to carry the franchise on his back. Then he'd break down."

The negotiations to get Walton to Boston appeared to be on the verge of breaking down more than once over the summer. Rumors had Walton going to the Lakers, Cleveland and even staying with the Clippers. But Walton says the only team he wanted to play for is Boston.

"I initiated contact," Walton says. "I called Red and got the bridge up. was glad it worked out.

"This is where I wanted to play. couldn't be happier. I'm having the time of my life here."

Walton didn't have the time of his life during all the weeks and seasons he has spent on crutches, in casts and on the disabled list. He says his oft-injured feet are fine and haven't been giving him any trouble. Nevertheless, Walton still has to make some concessions to his past maladies.

"There are restrictions on how much I can play because of the injuries I've had in the past," Walton says. "I'm not able to play long stretches of minutes. One of the reasons I came to the Celtics is they have a strong front court--I don't have to be out there all the time. When I play too much, I suffer stress in my lower legs. I've accepted that."

There's no telling what heights Walton would've reached had he been as injury-free as say, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar. Walton, though, doesn't concern himself with what could've been.

"I don't like to live in the past," Walton says, firmly. "It's definitely not good for me to dwell on what could've been or what might've been. The world has too many of those situations. It's not my style?

"I've given it all I've had. Sure, injuries have been frustrating and lack of playing time has been disappointing, but I've just kept pushing and trying."

That's for sure. Walton could've sat back and collected his salary, but chose to make more than one comeback. Why?

"I'm a competitive person and I love playing basketball," Walton says. "It doesn't ever get boring. I'd rather do this more than anything else."

Those sentiments about basketball were undoubtedly tested during his rookie year, with the Portland Trail Blazers in 1974-75. Injuries limited Walton to just 35 games, and he had problems with his teammates.

A lot of things have happened to Bill.

"It was very disappointing for me," Walton says. "Not only personally, but from a team standpoint. It was the first time I'd been exposed to a situation where winning wasn't the ultimate goal of the players on the team. A lot of players were concerned about their own accomplishments and were trying to shoot their way to the All-Star team. It was very disturbing."

Walton's iconoclastic ways disturbed more than a few people during his first couple of NBA seasons, even after he won the MVP award in 1978. This was a guy who played with a pony tail and scraggly beard, spent nearly all his time in work boots, old jeans and Grateful Dead T-shirts (he even went to Greece and toured with that rock group) and was buddies with Patty Hearst.

Walton is more an "establishment" type these days. He's a family man (married with four sons) and has even been known to wear three-piece suits. If you compare the way Walton looks now to the way he did a decade ago you'd never guess he was the same person.

"A lot of things have happened to me," Walton says. "I'm a lot more mature. I'm a lot more comfortable in my position of being a public figure. When I first started, I was very uncomfortable and was unprepared for it. Now I've grown to accept it."

But at this point, Walton doesn't seem ready to accept that a player's career must come to an end some time. And why not? Walton has bucked odds which would have sent someone with less mettle into retirement years ago.

"I want to play forever," Walton says. "I don't want to retire. I'm having fun."

It's His Passing that Makes Him Special

Perhaps the key to Bill Walton's basketball career took place during the summer in between his freshman and sophomore years at Helix High School in La Mesa, Cal., near San Diego.

Walton, who had been playing basketball since fourth grade ("I knew this was how I wanted to make my living the first time I played it," he says.), was 6-1 as a prep freshman. But when he returned to Helix for his sophomore year, he sprouted to 6-7. He was a guard until then, and was shifted to center.

UCLA was the first college to contact Walton, and he eventually did go to the school, leading the Bruins to NCAA championships in 1972 and 1973. Walton was also the Outstanding Player of the NCAA tournament those two years.

Walton scored a career-high 44 points in the 1973 title game against Memphis State, shooting a record 76.3 percent from the field in the tourney. However, it's Walton's passing, not his scoring, that has made him a special kind of player. He passes the ball better than most point guards.

He knew the first time he ever played.

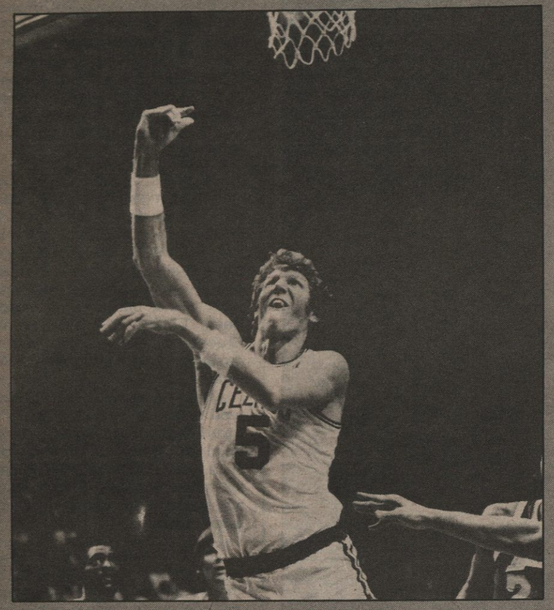
Former UCLA Coach John Wooden is responsible for Walton's passing prowess.

"So much of my basketball game, the way I play and appreciate it was fostered through coach Wooden," Walton says. "He had a tremedous influence on all coaches in Southern California. He emphasized moving the ball around, getting easy baskets on good, quick passes and having plays involving two, three or four players instead of one.

"That's how I grew up playing--passing. It was very good indoctrination into quick-hitting plays."

Continued on Next Page

More Bill Walton Continued From P. 9



Bill has pride in the Celtics and UCLA.

Walton, who was a key ingredient in the Portland Trail Blazers 1976-77 NBA championship ring, is with the Celtics this year. And he says being a Celtic reminds him of wearing the UCLA uniform.

"Everyone who's ever played here has pride in the organization," Walton says. "The Celtics and UCLA both have great traditions."

SELF PORTRAIT

BILL WALTON

BIRTHPLACE AND DATE: San Diego, California, November 5, 1952
FAVORITE MOVIE: "Where the Buffalo Roam"
IF I WERE REINCARNATED, I'D BE: Playing in the Band
IF I COULD BUY ANY CAR, I'D BUY A: Stretch Limosine
FAVORITE TV SHOW: NFL Football
FAVORITE ANIMAL: Bonzo
ENTREE I WOULD CHOOSE FOR MY LAST MEAL: Spinach Tofu Pie
FOUR GUESTS AT MY FANTASY DINNER PARTY: Red Auerbach, John Belushi, Wilt Chamberlain and Bill Murray
FAVORITE RESTAURANT: My Mothers House
FAVORITE COMEDIAN: Ronald Reagan
FAVORITE BOARD GAME: Monopoly
IF I HAD TO CHOOSE ANOTHER PROFESSION; I'D BE: A College Basketbal Player
HIGH SCHOOL NICKNAME: Spider
FAVORITE DRINK: Dick Gregory's Bahamian Diet Drink
OLDEST PIECE OF CLOTHING: Portland Trail Blazers head band and Grateful Dead T-shirt
I'D SPEND MY LAST $10 ON: Going to a Grateful Dead Concert
IF I COULD CHANGES PLACES WITH AN ACTOR, I'D PICK: Ronald Reagan
I WISH I KNEW HOW TO: Think like a republican, then life would be much easier.

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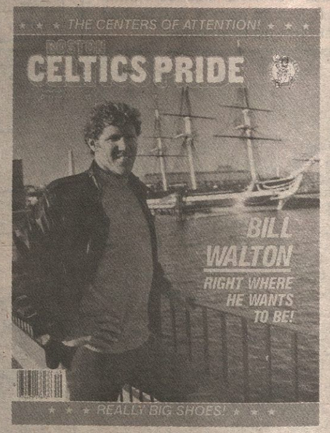

Published twice monthly during basketball season and monthly in the off season.

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K.C.'s Corner

I Spell Clutch Player...D-E-N-N-I-S

We were talking the other day about some of the better clutch players in the game, and naturally Dennis Johnson is among them. I recalled some of Dennis's early years; there was one particularly memorable game he played against us in 1980.

It was Larry Bird's first season with us, and we were accomplishing something special here in Boston. We had finished last the year before but we were in first place at midseason. We were young as a team then---Larry, Cedric Maxwell and M.L. Carr hadn't played in a championship series yet.

So here were the Seattle SuperSonics, the NBA champions of the year before, to play us in a nationally televised Sunday game. We're up by three in the final six seconds, I think, and they have the ball. Well, we're jumping all around, thinking we had scored an important win for our young program.

But the game changed---for Seattle, behind Dennis Johnson. They inbounded from half-court, and swung the ball to the opposite side of the court. With one second on the clock, DJ caught the pass and went up in the same motion. Swish. A three-pointer, and they beat us in overtime.

I realize that one play does not explain a man's talents. For DJ, this season has been explanation enough: He is an All-Star who is having a tremendous season for our ballclub.

DJ has been outstanding for the past 5-6 seasons. I remember him early in Seattle, when Bill Russell gave him his chance to be a player. Lenny Wilkens took over, and the Sonics were in the championship round twice. At Phoenix, he was popular and his game reached an even higher level.

In Boston we have been to the finals both years he's been here. Dennis is a 6-4 player who plays taller. He has great strength, he rebounds, he plays continual "deny" defense. Besides all that, he pushes the ball up the floor and he will play heavy minutes. This year? He's even more solid.

As an opposing coach (coaching against him), I remember Dennis creates a certain amount of fear---an ominous presence. He will burn you.

As his coach, I rely on him---see above.

I have been very pleased with our ballclub the past ten days. We have won several games in a row and after defeating the Bucks in our home opener, we have continued a very successful home stand.

Against Atlanta, we had to play very hard against a young aggressive team which has a strong inside player like Kevin Willis, and a super scorer, Dominique Wilkins. I also have respect for their rookie, Jon Koncak. He plays inside like a pro, already. We were uncertain of them; they were missing Doc Rivers and Eddie Johnson that night. At guard was Spud Webb, who proved to be an igniter.

We won a struggle. I had to make a decision to go with Bill Walton down the stretch; when Robert Parish is out for a long time, as he was that ballgame, Robert becomes stiff and needs 2-3 minutes to get loose. I substituted Robert for Bill mid-way through the 4th quarter of that close game, but then I put Bill back quickly. Bill played a super game---very aggressive.

The next night we played a very sound defensive game against the Bullets and Robert played excellent in his long stretches of playing time. The Bullets had an off-night shooting, but we took advantage. We used our defense to key our running game. Also we showed good patience to work the ball inside in the set offense.

Because of an unusual schedule, we did not play our next game until six days later. We had that layoff. We played Phoenix, a team that had not won yet this season. Guarding against a letdown and arousing ourselves against an upset-minded veteran team were foremost in my mind approaching that game.

About two minutes into that contest, my fears were realized. Humphries scored, Nance got it going, and we were quickly down. So I called a quick timeout.

We had to readjust. I reminded the guys they needed a win, that we were a perfect target, sitting on top and in the Garden.

They were for real. As a team at the top, you can NEVER let the underdog have a chance to see the victory light.

I was happy with our effort and we won going away.

The following night we defeated the Pistons in Detroit. We knew they would be ready and we prepared for a difficult game against the team which played us so well in the playoffs last year. We played solid defense. shot out to a large lead, and they had to use up their energy just to come close. After that, every basket of ours put them away.

It appeared as if the Pistons had an advantage at home, but we met that test with solid defense. Pride and determination drive that effort. Even if it does appear the odds are against us, we hate to lose. The players do, I do.

As a coach, I try and channel that emotion. Into direction. Preparedness. But when the ball's thrown out and the game starts, it's the players' game.

Because it is their game, they themselves, built a foundation. The players, playing on the floor, go back to that when times get rough.

Back home against the Pacers last week and another tough one against a young, aggressive, inside team. Like the Hawks, that youthful club knows they can play with us. Clark Kellogg is an exceptional player and because they are strong inside (with Herb Williams, Stipanovich, Tisdale), I could not leave the Green team out there as long as I would have liked.

We were tied at 58 at halftime; during the intermission we decided to work even harder on the defensive end, hoping our aggressive play would force some things. We broke out by 12 in the 3rd period, and won, 118-114.

We felt good about where we are right now; something we want to continue building on.

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M. L. Carr

Playing in the ABA

I came back from Israel and played for the Spirits of St. Louis. I had an opportunity to go to the Celtics, Buffalo or St. Louis. I just felt I'd have a better opportunity for more playing time in St. Louis. Boston was a settled team. Coming to Boston would've meant zero playing time. Silas, Havlicek and Nelson were there. It wouldn't have been too easy for me to play.

Going to the ABA was a stepping stone for my career--it gave me the opportunity to play. When I look back on it, I think it was a good move. Red Auerbach though I should've come to Boston right away, but playing for St. Louis gave me the opportunity to show what I could do.

"What separated the ABA from the NBA was that the NBA had dominant big men - there were almost none in the ABA."

After that season, the leagues merged. Since I had a one-year contract, I became a free-agent and signed with Detroit.

The ABA was a good league. What separated the ABA from the NBA was that the NBA had dominant big men--there were almost none in the ABA. If you beat your man, the inside help wasn't there. It was a wide-open game. If you beat your man to the basket, it was clear sailing for a wide-open dunk.

There was more top talent in the NBA-- it was a more established league. I thought there were players in the ABA who were as good, if not better, than some NBA players. That goes without saying. Dr. J, Moses Malone, George Gervin and others went on to do well in the NBA. They've withstood the test of time.

Sometimes I think about the talent on the Spirits and how I managed to be one of the mainstays on the team. That team was as talented as any assembled--they had Moses Malone, Caldwell Jones, Marvin Barnes, Ron Boone and Mike Barr--it was loaded.

But they didn't do well because there wasn't a team effort. There were too many stars and not enough role players. The team could've been a lot better, no doubt about it. They didn't pay the price in terms of practicing.

There was also instability in the ABA. You never knew if you'd have another game. That led to insecurity. Your mind wasn't just on playing. That had a lot to do with why the team didn't do as well as it should have.

Moses Malone was very talented, even back then. And that was his worst year. He came to a team with its own stars, and became teammates with guys who had played against him. That's a big transition for a guy just out of high school. It wasn't the true Moses that year.

Marvin Barnes (who later played for the Celtics) is probably one of the most talented players I've ever seen.

Malone was talented even just out of High School.

His ability to rebound in traffic was unparalleled--that's what impressed me the most about him. He could get 20 rebounds a night if he wanted to.

His concentration wasn't there--he had problems. He did some of the most incredible things I've ever seen on the court. He could've been one of the top five players in the game.

* * *

I think the Celtics new players (Bill Walton, Sly Williams, Sam Vincent and Jerry Sichting) are going to do very well. More important than playing time is how their personalities blend in with the team-- it's been an easy transition for them. They're learning the system and I see great benefits from them-- they're quality players.

This is the most talented Celtics team I've seen since I've been here. All the players, from one through 12, are good. But the true test is that championship ring. Show me the ring at the end of the year. They're not the best if they don't get that gold.

Johnny Most

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Savior has a Tough Job Description

To Patrick Aloysius Ewing, being the savior of the ailing New York Knick franchise wasn't just a job, but an adventure.

It began in the preseason, when Ewing seemingly was involved in an altercation every time he stepped on the floor. In one duel with Indiana Pacer Steve Stipanovich, Ewing suffered a hyper-extended elbow, an injury which hindered him during the first few games of the regular season.

Even more of a pain was that the Knicks began this season where they left off last year--losing their first eight games. A start like that put Ewing under even more scrutiny than before. After all, the league's first choice in the June draft signed a 10-year, $30 million contract, so the Knicks shouldn't lose a game for 10 years, right? And if things don't go right, it's got to be Ewing's fault, no?

"It's not easy being him," Knicks Coach Hubie Brown says.

Ewing seems to be making a reasonably smooth transition to the NBA game, though he concedes, "I have to improve on somethings." things."

Says Brown: "We just want him to do his thing, to stay within himself and do what he can do."

What Ewing won't do is change the Knicks into a team the caliber of the Celtics or Lakers tomorrow. Anyone who expects Ewing to do that had best change his or her hopes. First of all, the Knicks, as a team, are just a shade below awful. Injuries to Bernard King and Bill Cartwright, have decimated the front line, and the Knick guards are substandard on their best days. It could be said Ewing had a better surrounding cast when he was at Georgetown.

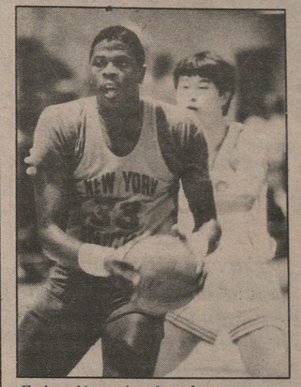
As a Hoya, Ewing was looked upon to provide defense, rebounding and shot blocking--any points he scored were a bonus. With the Knicks it's a different story. He's got to be a major scorer (he's the Knicks top point getter), a role he's not used to.

While Ewing's defense has been acceptable, Brown feels it would be better if Cartwright were around.

"A crime in his development was Cartwright not being available everyday in the drills for him to defense," Brown says. "He was getting a daily lesson because Cartwright has so much stuff offensively. He would be further ahead right now from a defensive standpoint if he had that luxury."

Nevertheless, Ewing's defensive skills are being compared to those of Bill Russell.

"Sure, his game needs refinement here and there," Celtics President Red Auerbach says, "But all the basics are there. Believe me, see an awful lot of Bill Russell in Ewing."



Ewing: No savior, but close.

Georgetown Coach John Thompson knows a little bit about Russell, having served as his back-up two seasons.

"Nobody is as good as Russell was," Thompson says. "Nobody. You could count Russell, then you skip three or four places, then you talk about the rest of the people. Russell was the best.

"Nobody had the impact on the game defensively like Patrick, since Russell. Speculating in sport is fun to do, but I'm not ready to do that yet."

Ewing's offensive production may be surprising to some observers, but not Thompson.

"Patrick shoots the ball very well," Thompson says. "He's not what I call a hope shooter. He's a good shooter, a very good shooter. People will find he's quick. I think defense is where his value is because that's where he's a rarity. It's exceptional.

"Offensively right now, Patrick probably has more potential than Russ at the same time, from what I saw. His timing offensively is something he's got to be more patient with. His temperament is to be so fired up that sometimes he reacts too quickly as opposed to realizing 'I've got three guys on me."

How would Ewing, a graduate of Ringe-Latin High School in Cambridge, rate his offense?

"I know I'm a good offensive player," he says. "My skills have to become more polished. People think that if a guy's seven feet tall, that means he's got to score a whole bunch of points or he's not doing his part to help the team.

"It's just a matter of getting into the flow. I think I'm making progress, but I still make a lot of mistakes. I have to move on, get better."

The Knicks and the Celtics met for the first time this season, at Madison Square Garden on the 23rd. Six days later, Ewing made his first appearance at Boston Garden.

Ewing or no Ewing, the Knicks are still a struggling, patchwork team.

"We have to get our injured players back," Ewing says. "But that's something we can't control. We have to do as well as we can and move on from there."

So far, the Knicks haven't moved much at all this season. And that's not Ewing's fault. Brown points out quite accurately that only a very select few players in league history have ever turned their teams around right away.

"How many games did Ralph Sampson's team win his first year in the NBA?" Brown asks. "What, 28? Bill Walton's first year at Portland, his team only won 34 games (actually 38) and he was the most celebrated rookie ever to come out.

"Patrick is one man. One man in five. He has great potential, but he is no savior. Not with our situation. No one should expect him to be."

Sampson, who faced similiar pressures when he joined the Rockets in 1983-84, empathizes with Ewing.

"All he has to do is just play," Sampson says. "He's in the media capital of the world. He has everybody watching him, everybody wondering about him. If he just plays as hard as he can and adjusts to his surroundings he'll be fine. Then his next year will come around, and things will be normal."

That's highly debatable. Things probably won't be normal for Ewing until he leads New York to an NBA championship.

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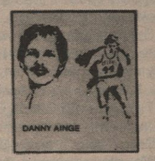

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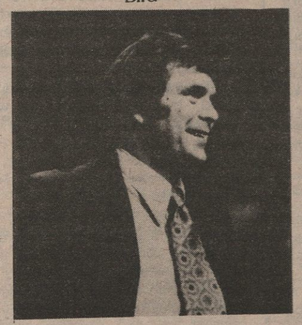

TOM HEINSOHN

LSC Art Productions is pleased to announce the release of the 1985-86 Limited Edition II portfolio containing four (4) lithograph drawings of Celtics basketball stars Larry Bird, Robert Parish, Kevin McHale and Danny Ainge by former Celtics player/coach **Tom Heinsohn**. Each lithograph is on 100% Archival Rag Paper and is hand signed and numbered by **Tom Heinsohn**. A certificate of authenticity will accompany each portfolio and is limited to 2500 sets. Definitely, a collectors item.

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Hard Work Pays Off for Rick

By Rick Carlisle
As Told to Celtics Pride

Rick Carlisle, 26-year old guard of the Celtics, has again captured a spot on the Celtics roster. For the second consecutive season Carlisle won a spot when conditions appeared unfavorable. Before the 1984-85 season, 1st round draft choice Michael Young appeared to have the inside track but Carlisle made the then World Champions.

Why did Carlisle make the team as a seldom noticed 3rd round choice? "He doesn't make mistakes," Jimmy Rodgers, Celtics Director of Player Personnel, confided.

This season Carlisle was forced to battle impressive Free-Agent Forward-Guard David Thirdkill and 3-year Celtics veteran Carlos Clark. Thirdkill presented the coaches a willingness to play defense and a hustling, scrapping offensive game (although lacking natural offensive sharpshooting). Clark, like Thirdkill and Carlisle, played well in Pre-Season. Like Carlisle, Carlos played ball this summer in the Los Angeles Summer League.

"They are all NBA caliber players," stated General Manager Jan Volk as cut-down time neared.

Rick Carlisle sat down last week and recalled some of his impressions of last summer, Pre-Season, and his productive beginning this year.

* * * * *

July-August, 1985. It was a pretty easy decision to go out to L.A. to play in the Summer League. I was injured a little last year, and hadn't played many minutes, other than practice games. L.A. was an opportunity to air it out. I played with Carlos Clark, Jeff Lamp (a former teammate from Virginia), Greg Kite, and Danny Schayes. We played about 12-14 games. I was a Free Agent, and I wanted to play as well as I could.

Shooting range, posting up, and ballhandling were things I worked on. And to improve my quickness, I tried to match up against point guards in that league.

I think another important thing was I stayed out in Los Angeles after the summer league was through. At UCLA, several of the Lakers were working out---Michael Cooper, Mike McGee, Magic Johnson, Larry Spriggs, James Worthy---and I scrimmaged out there against them for two more weeks.

I was fortunate; in the Pre-Season, my most personally-satisfying minutes were against the Lakers.

The guys I played against during my time on the floor in the Pre-Season Games? Cooper, McGee, and Magic. Those added two weeks helped.

September-October, 1985. You

Carlisle: Doesn't make mistakes

read and hear a lot of things which are not necessarily true and not necessarily untrue. That proverbial "last spot" created plenty of media space. I was determined not to let it confuse or distract me.

I tried to concentrate on the things I can do best in the early workouts---play within my capabilities. There were three main thoughts:

1. Keep things simple and don't try to overextend my capabilities.
2. I had enough skill. Show the coaches and players my best play.
3. Play, and don't read the papers.

Pre-Season Exhibition Games: The Lakers. I was happy, like the rest of the guys, to just get out and play some other teams besides ourselves. I didn't play much against the 76ers in our opener. I was ready for the game against the Lakers in our second game.

I wanted to be aggressive---and in my first play of that "series" I drove directly through the lane and drew a two-shot foul. It felt right---and I was involved in the action throughout my time. I didn't want to be tentative. I wanted to be a threat.

Looking at the Pre-Season I knew I hadn't even played **one minute** against them. That was another reason the UCLA scrimmages in the summer helped.

I scored in double figures (11) in the first game and helped out in the two wins we had over L.A.

The Pre-Season schedule ended at The Forum--we won, 124-116. There was one week of practice remaining, and the "competition" was still alive.

The Final Week of Pre-Season. We flew home from Los Angeles on the Red-Eye after the final game and I gave the issue some deep thought. We still had a couple of practices; if we **were** even, then maybe those last camp practices would be the difference.

I recall having a hard time sleeping that week. There was a great deal at stake for me, as there was for David and Carlos.

"I'm optimistic about our team. We have a different personality his year and now we're out there trying to take care of business."

You could look at stats and arrive at any conclusion you wanted. But I thought I would make the team. One thing I did know: we were all vastly different players. Carlos was a great athlete and a defensive player. "Third" played defense real well and could get points by scrambling.

I am the type of player who has an all-around game and concentrates on the system.

I understand myself better. Earlier in the summer I was planning to come to Boston early and begin looking around for real estate. At the time, I was thinking about purchasing a condominium and land for investment purposes. But then the team drafted Sam (Vincent), then signed Jerry (Sichting). I quit looking temporarily.

Milwaukee: The Home Opener: Case (K.C. Jones) threw me right in there; I had no idea I would play a minute. But we made a good run when I was out there and we won going away. I guarded Jeff Lamp for a time in that game, a former teammate of mine at Virginia and the L.A. Summer League.

We went out after the game and talked. In the summer, we were "projects". Lamp was out of the league last year and I was a Free Agent. We had made it this far. I'm glad for him because he's played well for the Bucks.

I've been pretty satisfied; the **Green Team** as K.C.'s "titled" us, I think, has contributed. I don't think we're as talented individually as the starting team but the starters know they can play hard and know they will get rest.

The key to the bench, or any combination of starting players and bench players, is to play well as a unit.

Playing Ball. Last week I finally settled my living situation. I purchased that condo in Allston, which is part of the City of Boston's general geographic area. We had nearly a week between games so I was able to move in peacefully.

A bunch of us (Bill Walton, Larry Bird, others) went out to Worcester to hear the Grateful Dead. They were spirited and it was an entertaining night off.

We're human; we need a night off and we cope with financial and family problems every day, too.

But it's still easy for me to play ball. When I come to the Garden I'm able to forget the personal struggles. The basketball environment energizes me and I'm always ready to play.

2nd-Year Pro. We defeated the Pacers, 118-114, at Boston Garden on November 13th largely because of Dennis Johnson continuing his excellent play of the early stages of the season. DJ's a great player.

I played some, watched and studied some. Couldn't help thinking that there is such a difference being in the league 10 years (like DJ).

Dennis went up for his fade from the baseline, about ten feet away; it was a strong, aggressive, offensive move. One that he is know for.

It's different for a player like me. I'm capable of that move but if I miss it, it looks bad.

Dennis **should** take that shot. He's an All-Pro and he's "earned" that move. For a "4" guard (like me) off the bench, it's different. I try to concentrate on sustaining a team flow. You have to be more careful in my role.

After the game I sat in front of my locker for a long time, thinking about my play. I had been out there in the second and fourth periods, and there had been an Indiana possession where I turned my head against Clint Richardson, who's a very good shooter. Seeing a possible double-team, I ran toward Herb Williams who swung the ball back to Clint.

Two points.

I'm still learning out there, that's the bottom line, There are silly things I'm trying to work out...

I'm optimistic about our team. We have a different personality this year and now we're out there trying to take care of business.

The thing I've seen different is we're a lot more disciplined, getting a good shot every time down the floor. I do think K.C. sees the bench as an effective part of the club. I watch the guards; last season you could see Dennis and Danny (Ainge) almost pull their wrists up tightly, lacking the good follow through. I think they might have been pacing themselves since they knew they'd be out there 45 minutes a game. I'm hoping we'll be able to help out off the bench all season. The bench didn't play most of the final two months of the year in '84-85.

The Francis O'Bryant Story

"Do You Know Me? I Sit on the End of the Celtics Bench"

Francis experiences with the Celtics have run the gamit over 16 years.

By David Zuccaro

When one is associated with the Boston Celtics, he is hardly a candidate for the American Express "Do you know me" advertisements. Francis O'Bryant is an exception, however. The epitome of what Celtics Pride is all about, Francis is the individual who sits at the far end of the Celtics bench during home contests. "People stop me in the street and say 'Hey, aren't you the guy who sits with the Celtics' players at the Garden,' " Francis says astoundingly.

In the 16 years that O'Bryant has been a son in the Celtics' family, he has been a no-show just once in that time. His impeccable record was blemished only because he was too young to have a driver's license. "It was in 1974 and I was the star player for Copley High's Basketball team and we had a game that day in Boston when the Celtics were playing that night in Providence. At the time, I had a learner's permit so I didn't have a ride down. Everyone had left for the game, so I was stuck with no ride."

Being the typical autograph hound aided Franny in his journey of working for the Celtics. While Francis worked at Melvin and Badger's Drug Store, Celtics Emmett Bryant walked in, noticed Franny and gave him a pair of tickets for the night's game against Phoenix. Once there, Franny asked Suns' star Connie Hawkins for his signature. Calling Franny "Big Fella" because of his rotund appearance, "The Hawk" consented.

Later acknowledged by Celtics' Equipment Manager Walter Randall as a good-natured individual who was a regular attendee of Celtics' events, Franny received an offer he couldn't refuse: a job with the Celtics as a ball boy. "I loved basketball and still do. I grew up around it and I loved the Celtics, so I jumped at the chance to work with the players. On my first day, I came earlier than I was supposed to, in anticipation. Randy (Walter Randall) and Howie McHugh (Celtics' P.R. Director) met me that day and introduced me to the Celtics staff in the front office and then the players in the locker room. I remember Jo Jo White called me 'Big Time' because of my weight."

"People stop me in the street and say 'Hey, aren't you the guy who sits with the Celtics players at the Garden."

Ironically, Boston played Phoenix that first night and Hawkins remembered O'Bryant from the Suns' last visit into Beantown. "He said, 'Hey Big Fella, you got a job, hah!,' " Franny now exults when telling the story.

Not all the players were complementary, however. His most memorable game, shockingly, was a Celtics' loss. It was Game 6 of the 1974 NBA Championship when the Milwaukee Bucks defeated the Celtics 102-101. "I was a ball boy on the Bucks' side of the court that night. If we won that game, we would have been the Champs. I was really rooting hard for the Celtics, especially when they led with a couple of minutes left in the game. Terry Driscoll (Bucks player) yelled at me and said 'Hey, waterboy, shut-up, you're nothing but a water-boy.' So then I said to him 'Who are you to talk, I've played about as much as you have in this series.' He laughed at that," exclaims Francis.

In 1981, came the arrival of the people's choice - Terry Duerod to the Celtics roster. With that, Franny was given a permanent nickname - "Little Do," due to their similarity from head-to-toe. Known for his classy wardrobe, keen sense of humor and happy-go-lucky attitude, Franny takes all the ribbing in stride. "I remember Red (Auerbach) said once when we lost three games in a row and after he saw me shooting the ball around, 'If you grow up instead of across we could use you as a player.' "

Presently, O'Bryant performs the behind-the-scenes duties that most people take for granted. He is responsible for handing out the complementary tickets to referees and both teams' players at each game, placing the advertising banners around press row and delivering the quarter stats that go to the media at each intermission. He is also on guard when the Celtics' Public Relations Staff needs him for some function. His ritual after each game is to seek out the basketball when the clock strikes 0:00 and bring it in the locker room after each contest is decided. "I remember once when we beat the Lakers for the 1984 Championship. Some fan took the ball among the mass of confusion and ran with it. I eventually chased him into the stands and wrestled with him over the ball. I finally got it and ran towards the locker room. The same situation occurred when we beat Philadelphia in 1981 (for the Eastern Conference championship). Only this time, I wrestled with the guy on the floor and after he recognized me, he gave me the ball. The guy apologized and was happy just to shake my hand," Francis boasts with pride.

Outside of the Celtics, he is a court officer at Middlesex Superior Court and works part-time as a high school basketball official: a law-obiding official of two very different examples. He still keeps in regular contact with a lot of ex-Celtics like Dave Cowens, Don Chaney, Sam Jones, Art Williams, Don Nelson, Tom Sanders, etc. Francis also worked at many of these players basketball camps as an instructor for youngsters. You get the picture, the players quip Franny about his physical stature but adore him as a person and close friend.

CELTICS
BOSTON
CELTICS
5
SPALDING
BILL WALTON
BANK OF BOSTON

Celtics Confidential

By Bob Schron

Representing the Celtics. Professional athletes lend their care, interest, reputations, and names to meaningful causes. **Dave Cowens, Bob Cousy,** and **John Havlicek** represented the Celtics at Boston's 10th annual Multiple Sclerosis Dinner of Champions at the Sheraton-Boston last week. Jeff Twiss, Public Relations Director of the Celtics also attended. Emcee was Dave Maynard of WBZ-Radio, and speakers at the dinner included Curt Gowdy, Governor Michael Dukakis, former Bruin's Coach and Goaltender Gerry Cheevers and former Bruin Wayne Cashman.

Cowens is also on the Board of Trustees of the Sports Museum of Boston and has become extremely active in the cultural perspective of sport. Not totally unrelated to culture, Cowens also recently coached the Media in the media's charity basketball game against a team coached by Mayor Ray Flynn of Boston. The game was played at the Condon Community School and included WBZ-TV's Bob Lobel, WNEV-TV's Garry Gillis, WILD's Willie Maye, and the Boston Herald's Charley Pierce. The game was played to assist Jamie Fisk.

Celtic PR leader Twiss also is on the Board of Advisors of **NF, Neurofibromatosis** Prevention, or elephant man's disease. He has arranged for Jerry Sichting to do a national PSA for increasing public awareness of the illness.

Numbers and Beliefs. Chris Mullin, the last 1st round draft choice to ink a pact (with the Golden State Warriors) selected #17 as his number. The reason: "I always respected John Havlicek's game," commented Chris. Mullin immediately won the first game he played with the Warriors with a final moment basket to cap off a 15-point performance. Chris's game was compared frequently to the maestro **Larry Bird's,** but late in his senior season, his stock was increasingly questioned.

But not by, for example, the Cleveland Cavs. "We had him in here in April, before the draft," commented Cavs' Assistant Coach Gene Littles. The Cavs, drafting 11th, "wanted him. Badly," according to Littles.... One of the reasons the Los Angles Clippers started strongly, according to comebacking Marques Johnson, was the preparation done by former Celtics and now Clipper Coach **Don Chaney.** "He came into camp ready," commented Marques on ESPN. "He ran a thorough and stringent camp conditioning-wise.

Scott Wedman: Hands are the Key.

When the season started, we were ready."

Chaney is on one of six current teams which feature ex-Celtics either in coaching or front office positions. Others include **K.C. Jones, Don Nelson,** and **Bill Fitch,** coaches of the Celtics, Bucks, and Rockets respectively; **Wayne Embry,** consultant of the Pacers; **Bill Sharman,** President of the Los Angeles Lakers; and **Paul Silas,** Assistant Coach of the New Jersey Nets.

Scott Wedman on shooting: "It doesn't matter so much where my feet are or if I'm on the move. The most important thing is the hands. I try to have my hands in the same position every time I shoot. Then I want to concentrate on squaring up. Then I want to drive hard with the lower body. If those techniques are correct, I shouldn't **ever** miss..."

Bill O'Connell, Sports Director of WLVI-Channel 56, hosts a highlight and fan call-in show after every road telecast by the Celtic TV flagship station in Boston...**Eddie Gillooly,** who directs publicity and marketing locally for Miller Beer in addition to writing for **Celtics Pride,** hosted the annual All-Star luncheon for press and players on November 1 at Barrett's in Boston. For the first time in the history of the balloting, the entire starting team of the Green is on the ballot. In the past there were as many as five, but these included Kevin McHale, who at the time was 6th man on the team...

Scout **Rick Weitzman** on Larry Bird: All NBA players have a built-in awareness of game situations and an awareness of running basic offensive plays. A recognition if you will. But what sets Bird apart is that he has great vision as well as an ability to see a play developing two or three passes ahead of time. Other players use role-learning. Bird's is creative."

An early column stated Georgi Glouchkov was one of three foreign players in the league. Not true; besides Glouchkov, Bol, and Olajuwon, other foreign players include the talented, multi-purpose forward Detlef Schrempf and center Uwe Blab of West Germany; center Bill Wennington (Canada) and Patrick Ewing (Jamaica), center Mychal Thompson of the Bahamas, Satu-Mare, Romania-born Ernie Grunfeld, forward-guard, and Paris, France-born Dominique Wilkins, forward-guard.

Bill Walton felt that Glouchkov would be an effective player in the league and also stated that Eastern bloc basketball "was a bit more mechanical than the American style game, but very good nevertheless. What hurts 'Russian-style' basketball or European basketball is that the players do not have the five-star competition that players in the States or in the NBA have. Especially this is true in the NBA. We have a top quality game because we compete nightly against the best players going."

A recent "visitor" at the Celtics practice of November 5, Walton's 33rd birthday, was a strip-tease dancer. She went through several daring moves, causing the Celtics center to joke, "Obviously, I've joined the right team."...Members of the Grateful Dead, friends of Walton, also visited.

Bob Brannum also brought a player with him to a Celtics practice. Brannum, coach at Brandeis for fifteen seasons, will conclude his career there this season...

Student interviewers from Simmons College and Boston University interviewed K.C. Jones at Hellenic College recently...Sam Vincent has taken a residence in the Boston College area.

Former Celtics and now Phoenix Sun **Rick Robey** received a gracious welcome at the Garden when the Suns visited, November 8. He continues to struggle with a series of knee problems, wavering on a tightwire which is a career that threatens to be a disappointment...**Adrian Branch,** former Maryland ACC All-Star and second round draft choice of the Bulls, was a spectator of Suns-Celtics. Branch was an early cut of the Bulls but felt he played well in the camp. "No glaring errors," commented the young player. He's an impressive (full) 6-8 guard who now will play in the CBA in an attempt to forge an alternative entrance into the league. "I'm too close to give up this early," he contended.

Herbert Wind, veteran basketball writer, was in Boston last week to work on a retrospective piece on the Celtics. Wind worked the Celtics beat during the Cousy-Sharman era. He was here to focus on Larry Bird and the changes the beat has undergone since the fifties. Another source for Wind's **New Yorker** piece was **Bob Ryan,** who has covered Boston from Jo Jo White through Dave Cowens through Larry Bird. Jeff Twiss likens Celtics rookie Vincent to Gerald Henderson: "Same quickness, same strong body," opines the Celtic P.R. boss...Red Auerbach is busily continuing his book promotional tour. He has been to Houston, St. Louis, and Rockville, Maryland in recent days. Red is expected to maintain a game schedule comparable to last season's: 25 to 30 games during the regular season. And virtually all playoffs, although last season he did miss Game 3 of the Detroit series at Joe Louis Arena.

JOTTINGS...Against Phoenix, **Larry Bird** had a streak of 22 consecutive free throws snapped...From a November 1, 1980 Associated Press release: "The Clippers have given up on **Bill Walton** and his fragile left foot. The Clippers stated in an insurance claim with Lloyds of London, 'Walton is now permanently and totally disabled and will never be able to continue his occupation as a professional basketball player.' " On November 1, 1980, Walton's statement, "My wish and hope and desire are to continue to play in the NBA. I'm never going to give up the battle to come back and play. I feel I can still play ball in the NBA.

David Benner covers the Indiana Pacers for the Indianapolis Star on former Celtic **Quinn Buckner:** "Quinn's biggest adjustment here is in being asked to push the ball up the court continually. He always ran a set offense in Milwaukee, and in Boston, the offense seemed to be more of a set pattern. George Irvine has asked him to keep the break moving, either in fast or secondary break situations." ...Professor Robert Berry, Sports Law experts and Professor at the Boston College Law School recently co-authored **Labor Relations in Professional Sports,** with Bill Gould (Law, from Stanford) and Paul Staudoha (Law, University Cal-Hayward). Berry, a long-time season ticket holder, wrote a series of extensive histories of how sports became professionalized. Also included is a highly readable analysis of the NBA salary cap. Professor Berry recently attended a legal conference in New Orleans with Celtics General Manager **Jan Volk...Wayne Embry,** Player Personnel Consultant for the Indiana Pacers, attended the Pacers match with the Celtics, November 13. He watched the game with **Tom Sanders** and **Bob Cousy...**

GAME BY GAME - REVIEW

November 8, at Boston
Celtics 125, Phoenix 101

It is better to receive than to give. Just ask the Celtics, who turned 36 Suns turnovers into 31 points for an easy, give-away win at the Garden. Robert Parish had a game-high 25 points and 10 rebounds. Larry Bird was right behind him with 24 points and Kevin McHale had 14.

"We had a rash of turnovers in the first half that hurt us," Suns Coach John MacLeod said.

Those give-aways enabled the Celtics to run off a 28-5 spurt during a seven-minute span in the second quarter. That turned a 16-9 Phoenix lead into a 37-21 Celtics advantage.

"We started clicking on offense," Parish said. "We started playing good, solid defense and we didn't let their inside people do any damage. Then we rebounded well and it was history."

Said Coach K.C. Jones: "We had to wake up and we did."

Larry Nance paced the Suns with 21 points.

November 9, at Detroit
Celtics 124, Detroit 105

At the Silverdome, the Celts extended their winning streak to six, while snapping the Pistons win streak at four.

Larry Bird scored 28 points and Kevin McHale added 28 in this easy win over a good Piston Team. Thanks to some torrid shooting, Boston jumped out to an early lead. The Celtics had 20-6 lead after the game's first 4½ minutes, and wound up shooting 61 percent in the first quarter. They stretched the edge to 20 late in the quarter and were up by as many as 24 points. The Celtics led at the half, 72-50.

Isiah Thomas led the Pistons with 22 points, John Long had 19.

November 13, at Boston
Celtics 118, Indiana 114

This one wasn't a rout, but the end results was the same, as Boston put consecutive win number seven into the books.

Dennis Johnson scored his Celtics career high 30 points, 11 in the fourth quarter, to enable Boston to squeeze past the Pacers. The Celitcs were leading, 88-81 after three quarters, but the Pacers tied the game at 98 with 9:18 left.

That's when Johnson went to work, scoring nine points during an 11-2 Celtic spurt. Robert Parish had 23 points for Boston and Larry Bird dropped in 23. Herb Williams had 27 points for the Pacers, while Vern Fleming scored 22.

November 15, at Boston
Boston 118, Washington 114

The Celtics are playing so well that they can squander most of a 28-point lead, and it's no major-league deal. The Bullets were trailing, 69-41 just after the second half began, but came back with a 48-point fourth quarter.

"Seven minutes into the last quarter, we really weren't interested in the game," Celtic guard Dennis Johnson said. "But we weren't really worried about it."

Obviously, neither was Larry Bird. He scored 11 points late in the game --on four jumpers and a three-point shot form the corner--to thwart Washington's comeback bid. The Celtics also made six of eight free throws in the closing moments, offsetting three-point goals by Jeff Malone and Dudley Bradley.

"They made a good run, then Larry came in and got hot and iced it for us," Bill Walton said.

Said Coach K.C. Jones: "We played beautiful basketball to get the big lead. We ran the ball, we ran the plays and we ran a super defense. I just like to think about the positive."

What bad stuff can you say about a team that has won eight straight?

"I think the Celtics are better than they were last year," Bullet forward Dan Roundfield said. "They've improved a great deal."

Danny Ainge was Boston's high scorer with 24 points, Kevin McHale had 20 and Bill Walton had a Celtics career best 19 points. Jeff Ruland had 30 points and 17 rebounds for the Bullets.

November 16, at Indiana
Indiana 111, Boston 109

The homecoming for the Celtics' two Indiana natives, Larry Bird and ex-Pacer Jerry Sichting, was ruined, as the Pacers stopped the Celts' eight-game winning streak. A sellout crowd of 16,904 turned out at Market Square Arena.

Forward Clark Kellogg hit a short jumper at the buzzer to pull the game out for Indiana. Kellogg grabbed the rebound of Vern Fleming's missed shot and put the ball in over Boston center Robert Parish. Kellogg also did a nice job defensively, limiting Bird to just five points in the second half.

Indiana center Steve Stipanovich played probably the best game of his NBA career. The third-year man from Missouri had 20 points, 14 rebounds and 10 assists--a triple-double.

Bird scored 33 points for the Celtics, 28 in the first half. Kevin McHale had 18. Kellogg was Indiana's high man with 21 points.

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The CASUAL MALE Big & Tall

Eddie Gillooly

On The Road Again

As the tempo picks up in this 40th NBA season and the Celtics road games become as frequent as their appearances at Boston Garden, the memories of those wearisome and aggravating early morning flights, the tasteless quickie airport breakfasts, the emptiness and dankness in the opening and closing of strange arenas, and most of all, the comraderie among an 18 member group journeying together throughout the country for six months is recalled in vivid detail.

It seems to happen every year at this time when I read the Friday night messages on the locker room chalk board "Delta Airlines, 8:15 a.m. flight to Atlanta." It's like it was only yesterday when that brief message was important to me but it's actually been seven long years ago since I ended my annual safaris with the Celtics as a writer for the Herald American.

In the 1970-71 season, Bob Ryan of the Globe, and myself (it was my third year covering the Celtics) became the first writers ever to travel an entire season with the team. Prior to that, the Boston newspapers only covered the Celtics on the road in the playoffs and occasionally during the regular season for games in New York, Philadelphia and sometimes Baltimore.

When Bob Schmertz took over as owner of the club prior to the start of that season, he contacted the sports editors of the Herald American (then the Record American) and the Globe and was convincing in his argument that the Celtics deserved full time coverage. Thus began my nine year stint that included coverage of nearly 800 games home and away.

It's an awesome task that it toll but it was filled with many rewarding and memorable moments. The nine-year journey had its peaks and valleys ranging from the 1974 Championship series vs. the Milwaukee Bucks to the dismal and disastrous 1978-79 season that was total chaos, resulting in the worst record in the team's history. It was a challenge every day that season to write anything---good, bad or indifferent---about the team.

For most of those years, our troupe included 12 players, coaches Tom Heinsohn and John Killilea, trainer Frank Challant, announcer Johnny Most and Ryan and myself. It was like us against the world as we travelled from city to city throughout the country, visiting one hostile arena after another.

The current travelling troupe is up to 22 with the Quincy Patriot Ledger (Mike Fine) and the Hartford Courant (Peter May) joining the Herald and Globe writers as regulars. Glenn Ordway has been added to the radio booth and an additional coach has been included in recent years.

Unlike other sports, the NBA teams travel on commercial flights and they must book passage on the first available flight when travelling from one city to another on game day--which is the majority of the time since there are so many back-to-back games in the league. When they schedule morning flights, it's usually no later than 9 a.m.

On the surface that might not seem all that difficult for people on the 9 to 5 shift but for the writers travelling with the team, it's nasty. The writers are the last to leave the arenas after a game. It usually takes two hours to write and transmit the stories to the paper in Boston. Then its another half hour before you are back to the hotel.

Naturally, you've got to unwind with a snack or a couple of drinks before retiring to your hotel room. By this time, it's usually about 2 a.m.---or worse---and the wake up call will sound four or five hours later. In New Orleans one writer (not from Boston) got back to his room after unwinding on Bourbon Street and called the operator to leave a 7 a.m. wakeup call. To his amazement he was advised by the operator that he missed the call--it was already 7:15 a.m.

The team bus usually leaves the hotel two hours before flight times--sometimes earlier depending on the distance. The bus didn't wait for stragglers. If you missed the bus, it cost you a heavy cab fare to the airport. If a player missed a flight, he was hit with a $100 fine and had to pay the cost of the flight--not too many paid that tariff over the nine years. Also, there was an automatic $25.00 fine if a player stepped onto the bus without a tie.

General Manager Red Auerbach eased up on the tie rule in the early 1970's after reaching an agreement with the players that turtle neck sweaters would be appropriate as long as the players would wear a sports jacket. The Celtics were always the classiest dressers in the NBA. They took pride in their attire. Even at 6 a.m., Jo Jo White looked as though he was enroute to pose for the cover of Gentleman's Quarterly magazine. He was always nattily attired.

Some of the players on the opposing teams used to ridicule the Celtics dress code. A few days after he was traded to the Celtics in the late 1970's, Kermit Washington was standing in the hotel lobby in Philadelphia attired in a pencil striped dark suit. When he first joined the team, he arrived in a leather jacket and dungarees.

Asked what he thought about the Celtics dress code, Kermit replied, I think it's great, I feel like a new man. I used to be one of those who thought the Celtics dress code was ridiculous. Everyone's saying hello to me and treating me with respect since I've been wearing the suit. That never happened when I wore dungarees, leather jacket or other casual clothes. It really makes a difference."

The Celtics were always a close-knit group. Until the mid 1970's when the players had the option of having single rooms, the players doubled up. John Havlicek and Tom Sanders (then Paul Silas) were roomies, Dave Cowens and Jo Jo White shared a room as did Don Chaney and Don Nelson. The odd couple was Hank Finkel and Artie "Hambone" Williams, the tallest and shortest players on the team.

Havlicek was the most meticulous person I have ever met in my lifetime. He was totally organized in everything he did. He always carried a briefcase when he travelled and looked more like an executive than a basketball player. The briefcase was filled with letters he received from fans and he would spend his airtime replying to the letters from the fans or autographing photos that were requested.

When you wanted to find Sanders in an airport, all you'd have to do was look for the closest newsstand. Satch would be there buying a book. He was an avid reader and spent all of his flight time at this vocation.

Paul Westphal would seek out anyone who wanted to play backgammon while Jo Jo "organized" the card games. Heinsohn and Killilea would sit in the first two seats (all the players travel in the first class section because they need the space to stretch their long legs) reviewing scouting reports while Silas and Cowens often were engaged in conversations concerning upcoming games.

Of all the arenas in the country, none had the electricity that one experienced at Madison Square Garden during the early 1970's when the Celtics-Knicks engaged in their classic battles. If you couldn't get psyched for a game in Madison Square Garden between the Knicks and Celtics, there had to be something wrong.

The deep and articulate sound of announcer John Condon, a legend in Madison Square Garden, combined with the noises of 19,500, transformed every moment of every game into a private war between the Celtics and Knicks.

Madison Square Garden also was a favorite because it provided the best working conditions as well as a great pre-game feast for the media. In the early 1970's, the only communications vehicle for transmitting stories back to the newspapers was via Western Union. The service was top notch in the Big Apple.

In one of our few visits to Omaha, Nebraska where the Kansas City Kings played a few of their home games, I dialed the local Western Union office from my hotel room and told them I had a story to send to Boston. I asked the location of their office.

The operator, a woman, told me the name of the street but it didn't sound familiar. I told her I was in Omaha and she said she was in Mississippi. Sensing my panic, the operator said she could take the story over the phone and transmit it to Boston.

Reluctantly, I went along with her idea. It took an hour to dictate and she struggled with many of the Celtics names such as Havlicek, Kuberski etc., as well as many of the basketball terms. She noted several times that she was not a sports fan.

It was 3 a.m. when I finished dictating and I couldn't sleep. I felt there wasn't any chance of the story ever reaching Boston. But at 4 a.m. when I checked the sports desk, they said it was just starting to come over the machine. The miracles of modern communications. That's what I felt at the time.

Very simple. But I still like the intrique of the old days.

Mark Murphy

Two-Sport Athlete has Gone the way of the Buffalo

The two-sport professional athlete was eulogized long ago, and for obvious reasons.

The schedules became too lengthy and demanding, as well as the coaches. Besides, with today's salaries, a second sport is about as necessary as a second Mercedes.

But a number of Boston Celtics did attempt to survive under the rigorious routine of back-to-back seasons.

Bill Sharman played five years as an outfielder-third baseman in the Brooklyn Dodgers system (1951-55) while also playing for the Celtics, before he decided to concentrate on basketball.

Gene Conley pitched 10 years of major league baseball with several teams including the Boston Red Sox, in addition to a professional basketball career that spanned six year with the Celtics and New York Knicks.

Kevin "Chuck" Connors, one of the original Celtics who played in Boston from 1946-48, was also a member of the Chicago Cubs.

"Athletes did have a better chance to play two sports in that era," said Sharman, now president of the Los Angeles Lakers. "I believe the reasons were, first, the schedules and the number of games were much less. There were also fewer players and less competition at that time."

Major league baseball, for Sharman, represented a boyhood dream. Basketball was admittedly a secondary choice for him, though he decided to give both sports a chance after graduating from the University of Southern California in 1950.

The problems were soon apparent.

"Since both seasons overlapped each other, it was very difficult to do your best in either sport," said Sharman. "So after trying to do both for five years, I finally made a decision to give up baseball and concentrate on basketball."

"I really hated to give up baseball, as I enjoyed playing it," he added. "I felt I could not do justice to both, so I decided to stick with the Boston Celtics."

Conley is proud of his record of longevity as a two-sport professional athlete.

Like DeBusschere and Ron Reed, Conley crossed from the NBA into baseball as a pitcher.

The difference is though DeBusschere lasted one year with the Chicago White Sox before deciding the demands of two franchises were too much to handle, Conley's enthusiasm for both was increased.

"It was exciting because I was associated with good clubs." said Conley, a member of the 1957 Milwaukee Braves team that won the World Series.

This is not to say transitions from one season to the next were smooth. Conley, blessed with a generous measure of salesmanship, often found himself buying time with coaches.

"I got away with it (taking a shortened spring training) because no one else was doing what I was doing," said Conley. "Back then you didn't use lawyers for contracts, so I could sell myself. I would tell the baseball team that after the NBA season ended I would be right down, and because the season had just ended my body would be in peak condition so I could catch up quickly."

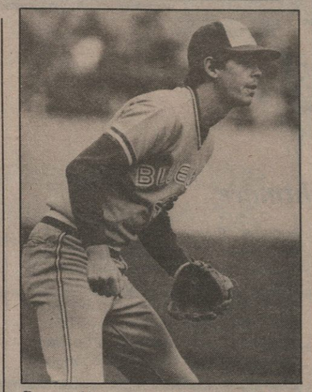
"I was lying right through the middle of my mouth," he added with a laugh. "There's no way I could get into shape like that. I know it's hard to believe, but after the NBA season it was my wind and legs I had to get into shape. I could run up and down the floor, but after about five sprints out to the wall I'd be winded. The difference was that you were putting on cleats, and they dig into the dirt."

If there is a combination more difficult that basketball and baseball, it is basketball and football.

To mix the two was virtually impossible, even during the late 1950s and early 1960s.

But John Havlicek and K.C. Jones both gave football short-lived attempts.

Havlicek tried out with the Cleveland Browns as a wide receiver in 1962.



Danny Ainge: impossible transition.

And Jones, worried that he wouldn't make the NBA because of his lack of shooting ability, tried out with the Los Angeles Rams as a defensive back in 1958 after serving two years in the military.

Danny Ainge does occasionally steal a glance back at his two-year career as a third baseman with the Toronto Blue Jays.

At one time he also considered playing two professional sports.

"I thought about it, though it would be impossible now," said Ainge, "We've been finishing up around June 15, and that's into the all-star break. I thought about playing both sports when I came out of college. There were rumors I would go to Ted Turner and play both for him (Braves and Hawks)."

So much for the worth of rumors.

But Ainge admittedly would have been forced to make a near-impossible transition each spring and fall.

He encountered enough trouble playing professional baseball for Toronto and basketball for Brigham Young University.

"It didn't help me in either sport," said Ainge. "Each year I would come back to basketball way behind. And never going to spring training was detrimental to my baseball skills. I had to do all of my experimenting during the season, in the heat of the battle. The people you do see succeed at that are pitchers."

And then, almost as an afterthought, Ainge added with a laugh, "that's it, I'll come back as a pitcher."

Kick Off Anti Liquor Drive

Governor Michael Dukakis and M.L. Carr applaud SADD.

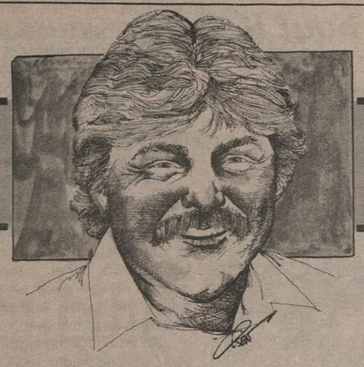
Students Against Driving Drunk, last week kicked off a nationwide campaign to bring its anti-booze and anti-dope message to the country's junior high schools.

At a rally at Kennedy Junior High in Waltham attended by students from throughout the state, SADD officials, Gov. Michael S. Dukakis and former Boston Celtics M.L. Carr inaugurated the new program.

Robert Anastas, the teacher who founded SADD, said the new campaign is designed to convince younger students to say no to drinks and dope.

Dukakis told the students that "SADD is one of those bold experiments that began here and has reached across this land, teaching young people to take control of their lives and making responsible decisions, first about drinking and driving and now about drug abuse."

The junior high SADD will feature a contract between students and parents in which both pledge not to use illicit drugs and to speak openly about concerns for the other's well-being.



Glenn Ordway

Schedule Can be a Nightmare

The Celtics recently enjoyed the luxury of a five day break between games. Make no mistake about it, this gift will be payed back...and payed with interest. There's no question that arranging an equitable schedule for twenty-three different teams is no easy task. Matter of fact, the vast considerations make it impossible. Many teams, like the Celtics do not own the building they occupy. Others must facilitate hockey teams, major league soccor, college sporting events, circus, professional wrestling, and two different ice shows. Now add to this the fact that teams must adhere to commercial airline schedules and yes...delays. The Result; an evil NBA monster that has destroyed many teams fortunes.. "BACK TO BACK GAMES." This monster is a sweaty forty eight minute ordeal followed by a hotel stay, plane trip, traffic jam and then another forty eight minute battle...All in the space of twenty seven hours. Most NBA players would probably think I'm being too kind in my description. The pitfalls of back to backs are endless...If you suffer an injury the first night...chances are you won't recover in time for the next game. If you're involved in a real war the first night...fatigue will get you the next. And if that battle goes into overtime... they may have to peel you between games really isn't sufficient enough to adequetly prepare for the next opponent. Here's a typical back to back travel schedule from last February.

Tues., Feb. 5
- 8:30 (eastern time) play Chicago Bulls
- 12:00 bus back to hotel, dinner

Wed., Feb. 6
- 5:30 am wake up call
- 6:30 bus to airport
- 8:00 am scheduled departure to Boston (plane delayed)
- 9:20 board plane
- 10:00 plane departs
- 1:30 pm plane arrives in Boston
- 5:30 pm players report at Garden for game vs. Cleveland Cavaliers

The Celtics will play a total of 26 back to backs. That's 56 games involving a contest the night before or the night after. You say that good teams should be able to compensate for these inconveniences. Your right, Good teams do. But there's no question, back to backs play a factor in a teams success on the second night. The Celts were involved in 24 back to backs last season. Their record the first night an impressive 21-3. On the second night with all of the above factors included, they were 16-8. Three of the six games lost at home were on the second night of back to backs. And remember this was the team that held the best record in the league. Weak teams had trouble even staying alive on the second night. The schedule makers do not have it easy. They must incorporate 82 games for each team in a period of about 170 days. It's just a shame that we can't get the opportunity to see each team at peak efficiency.

THEY SAID IT

Quinn Buckner, Guard, Indiana Pacer: We have an up and coming team, a fact that I've been trying to continually impress upon the young players, like Clark Kellogg, Herb Williams, and Waymon Tildale. Whether on a young team like the Pacers or on an older team like the Celtics, it's critical not to fall 10 or more points behind. That's the key to beating Boston: if you get them down, they suffer the same fault any team does. Impatience. They try to make everything up at once."

HIGH SCHOOL HOOP

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Satch Remembers...And Does Something About It

By Mark Murphy

Tom "Satch" Sanders still remembers that time Jackie Robinson spoke at his junior high school in Brooklyn.

It was a rare day indeed when a young athlete could share the same room or auditorium with a hero, and Sanders had no trouble listening to this one.

But Robinson surprisingly didn't talk about baseball very much. That would have been the easy and obvious subject for filling time with an audience of teenagers.

Robinson instead focused on a boring matter. He sounded like their teachers, talking about the benefit of education and its priority over athletics.

Sanders remembered the message quite well, though.

"The point was to keep that conversation in front of me," said Sanders, who developed a healthy perspective early with the help of Robinson's advice. "My parents used that to influence me all the time."

Sanders is still searching for ways to keep the message clear and poignant, 12 years after his retirement from the Boston Celtics.

Sanders and Richard Lapchick, director of Northeastern University's year-old Center for the Study of Sport in Society, coordinate a program that sends celebrated athletes to junior high and high schools across the nation with a simple message: The dream of playing "big time" sports is rarely realized.

Sanders is one of the few who succeeded against the grain, and played through 13 seasons and eight NBA titles with the Celtics.

Lapchick also experienced athletics on one of its most exclusive levels. His father, Joe, coached the New York Knickerbockers from 1947-1956.

Both are all-too-aware of the tight boarders that protect the high rent district of professional sports."

"How many kids become pros? One in 2,000," said Sanders. "We want parents to understand how to keep it in focus. What you want is for a kid to say 'I want to be there, but I have more ifs ready if I'm not. Maybe I'll become a teacher, or a lawyer,' and keep building alternatives. The odds are very much against things happening the other way."

"It has to come from many directions -- parents, school administrators, the media, which is very important," he added, "They, too, are contributors. Everyone has to carry the weight."

But for now several colleges, professional athletes, and olympians are making the primary effort.

Members of the New England Patriots, including Brian Holloway, Irving Fryar, Mosi Tatupu, Pete Brock, and Steve Moore have all spoken at Boston area schools and reached approximately 14,000 students in the last year.

Sanders and Lapchick hope to involve members of the Celtics once the NBA season ends.

Northeastern is also the base for a growing number of colleges that have initiated similar efforts in respective parts of the country.

The main requirement is an interesting one. Each member college must invite every athlete who left with out a degree, dating back to 1975, to return and complete work towards that degree.

The topic of athletes and education is obviously a hot one, and popular with the media.

But like any trendy issue, its novelty will eventually wear off.

"That's why we're moving as rapidly as we are," said Lapchick.

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Sly Solves Split Allegience Problem

By Mark Murphy

Like many Connecticut sports fans, Sly Williams grew up with split allegiances.

He followed the New York Knicks and Boston Celtics during a span when both cities were in the NBA's upper tier.

Williams also fantasized about the day when he could play for his favorite team.

This created an obvious problem that Williams has solved in the most unintentional of ways.

"I wanted to play for New York or Boston, but it was not my goal to play for both," said Williams who, after playing three seasons at the University of Rhode Island, was the 21st player selected in the 1979 NBA draft.

The Knicks took Williams with the third of three first-round draft choices they received from Boston in exchange for Bob McAdoo earlier that year.

"I wanted to play for New York or Boston, but it was not my goal to play for both."

But Williams, with the exception of one season, never played on a team that approached the high level of the great Knicks teams he followed during his youth in New Haven.

"There was one year in New York (1980-81) that I thought we could play with anyone in this league, but then they traded everyone away and they're still rebuilding from that." said Williams, who was traded to Altanta and a similarly bad situation two seasons later.

Williams' time with the Hawks was affected by injuries. He played in a mere 34 games in 1984-85 due to an intestinal ailment.

It was not a healthy way to end a contract. Williams entered free agency without a strong season behind him.

But he had long since made an impression on K.C. Jones, who was looking for a strong defensive forward to partially compensate for the departure of Cedric Maxwell.

"I was impressed with his aggressive play and his smooth style when he was in New York, and the same when he was in Atlanta," said Jones. "But I didn't fully appreciate what he can do until I saw him practice -- his passing, the way he reads the court. It's an innate ability."

Williams now faces a limited role. The prospect of sharing forward time with Larry Bird, Kevin McHale and Scott Wedman wouldn't be an acceptable role for many players used to considerable playing time.

"To get game - conditioned has been a problem,...But I have nothing to complain about."

But Williams has developed a plan, and it can be described in two words: "Being Patient," he said. "It's a matter of letting everything flow, watching everybody, and then getting some playing time. I'm happy with this team.

"To get game-conditioned has been a problem," Williams added. "But I have nothing to complain about."

"No parts of someone's game can really be drawn out until he gets more time," added Jones. "But as long as he (Williams) can handle that, he'll help us. It can be difficult. A guy like that can get upset if he is not getting the minutes."

Williams' progress was recently stunted by a hemorrhoidal problem, which caused him to miss two games. he returned for the Celtics' Nov. 8 game against Phoenix, only to lose a tooth filling later that night. This caused him to miss a game that following night in Detroit.

It's difficult to fit in when incapacitated, and "there's no question that because I've been a little ill I haven't been able to run as frequently. It will take two or three games of playing time to get back."

"The nice part is that not a lot is expected of you when you first join this team."

But Williams also considered the Celtics the best team for a player who needs time to adapt.

"The nice part is that not a lot is expected of you when you first join this team," he said. "My role is just to go in, play hard, good defense, spot Larry, and do whatever I can. I'll be there cheering."

Williams has admittedly changed in his willingness to fill a limited spot.

"I'm not shooting as much as I used to. I'm more team-oriented now," he said. "When I came into the league I could do a lot of the same things, but you change. It's a case of wanting to win, which is more important than anything else in this game. Time has made me a better player, and hopefully I can help these guys go even further than last year."

NBA

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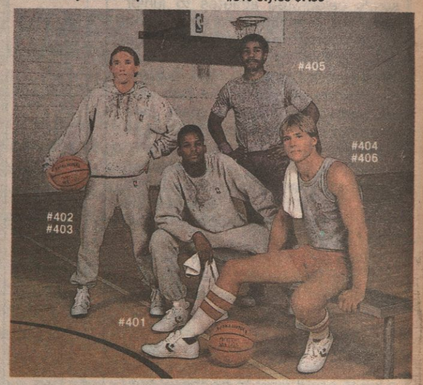

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NBA Notebook

By Terry Lyons

There's a lot of talk about defense in the game of basketball. Some critics of the NBA game say the pro players don't hustle enough on the defensive end of the court. **Sidney Moncrief** of the Milwaukee Bucks a former collegiate star at Arkansas, knows the difference between playing tough "D" in college and in the NBA.

"In college, you can get up in somebody's jersey and everyone says you're playing great defense," noted Moncrief. "Do that in the NBA, the man's by you.

"There's so much more strategy in professional basketball. Each time you take something away from an offensive player, you give him something else. So to be effective, your teammates have to know what That is, just as you have to know what they're giving the players they're guarding. That's why good man-to-man defense is really team defense," said Sid.

The team defense philosophy utilized by Milwaukee is one of the reasons a player like **Jeff Lamb** found a role in the NBA. Lamp, who played with the Portland Trail Blazers for two years and saw very limited playing time before being waived, was given a tryout with the Bucks this past preseason. He managed to impress Coach **Don Nelson** and has been contributing to the club every game.

"The system is real condusive to the way I play," said Lamp. "I'm good at coming off picks and shooting the open jumper on offense. That's a role Milwaukee needed to have filled.

"Defensively, it's a help-oriented system. You're not asked to stop anyone one-on-one. A person who's not overly strong on defense can survive," said Lamp.

* * *

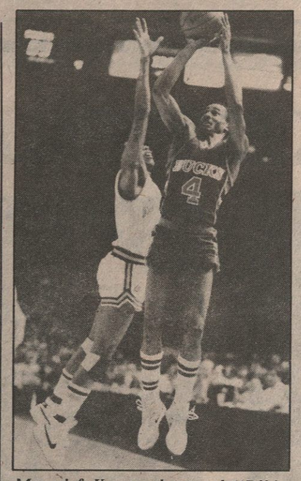
For the record: The Sacramento Kings presented commerative plaques to players who made the "firsts" at the Arco Arena. **Reggie Theus** of the Kings scored the first basket, **Derek Smith** of the LA Clippers made the first steal, **LaSalle Thompson** of the Kings hit the first free throw and grabbed the first rebound, **Otis Thorpe** of the Kings had the first assist and **James Donaldson** of LA blocked the first shot. ...The first week of November didn't provide good news to the Toney family. First, Philadelphia guard **Andrew Toney** sought a second opinion on his injured right foot which was diagnosed as chronically sprained. The second set of x-rays revealed a stress fracture of the foot which will sideline the Sixers guard indefinately. If that wasn't enough, **Sedric Toney,** Andrew's younger brother, was waived by the Atlanta Hawks when they activated veteran guard **Eddie Johnson.**

* * *

Otto Reintjes is the director of basketball at a sports club in West Germany. He remembers the first day he set eyes on **Detlef Scrempf,** the West German star who's now making his way with the Dallas Mavs. "I first saw Detlef when he was nine or 10," said Reintjes. "He was a soccer player then. The first thing I noticed was how small and skinny he was. I did not think he would be a basketball player. And I never dreamed he would be a professional."... An all-time record 31 former CBA players were on NBA rosters as of opening day which will make it possible for the league to name a "CBA player in the NBA Player of the Week."... NBA players worked a lot of overtime in October. The league had seven games go into OT, including two double-overtime games and a triple-overtime. Last year, the NBA had no OT in October.

* * *

Earl Cureton, the emerging sixth-man of the Detroit Pistons remembers when a career in basketball didn't seem to be possible. "I was recruited by two schools," said Cureton of his transition from high school to college ball, "Oakland University and Wayne State. The coach from Oakland took me to Denny's for my recruiting visit and told me I could play for him...if I paid half tuition." (Cureton ended up at Pennsylvania junior college and eventually the University of Detroit)...When the Golden State Warriors acquired **Greg Ballard** from the Bullets they knew his experience would be an asset to their young team but they also liked another part of the veteran forward. "We heard for a long time that he's not only a good player, but a good person," added Golden State Coach **John Bach.** "We felt we needed that in the locker room and on the practice floor as much as we needed talent."...The lastest trend in the NBA is the hiring of full-time strength and conditioning coaches to help players increase their body strength and tone. More than 10 NBA clubs have hired a specialist in the area. "I would say in another two years, every team in the league will have a conditioning coach in some form or another," said Houston Rockets Coach **Bill Fitch.** Fitch, thinking of another sports innovation, remembered, "A few years ago, everybody hung that Captain Video label on me because I was spending so much time watching



Moncrief: Knows what tough "D" is.

films. I said, 'Good, I hope nobody else gets into video because I'll have an edge.' But, of course, they all did."

* * *

Michael Jordan, the jumping jack of the Chicago Bulls will be "grounded," said the Associated Press report on the star guard who was found to have a broken left foot (navicular tarsal). Jordan has been sidelined since falling on the foot in the second quarter of his October 29 game at Golden State... **Reggie Theus** of the Sacramento Kings says it was tough to sit back in a patterned offense earlier in his career but now realizes he has to conform to the system that benefits his team. "Telling me not to run is like telling me not to play," said Theus. "But I think experience and maturity play a big part in under standing what a coach wants. I think I've always played my own rhythm, my own beat, my own sound of music but now that's what he wants. So I have to turn the music down."

* * *

Adrian Dantley of the Utah Jazz is off to his usual high-scoring start. His scoring is even more important to the Jazz in the absence of **Darrell Griffith** (free agent guard who's sidelined with a broken bone in his foot). "Teams are always going to play me tough," said Dantley, "because I'm a scorer. I don't try to make up for Darrell's absence. I just play like I always do--as hard as I can."...**Chris Mullin** of the Golden State Warriors is wearing uniform No. 17 instead of the familiar No. 20 he wore at St. John's. "I picked that number (17) because of John Havlicek," said Mullin. "I met him last year, and I always loved his style of play."... **Charles Oakley,** rookie forward of the Chicago Bulls, continues to impress his teammates and opponents, especially with his rebounding. "It has really earned the respect of everyone on the team," said Bulls Coach **Stan Albeck.** "It usually takes a rookie longer to make such an impression. This guy came in and said he was going to bang and he's lived up to his word."...The Houston Rockets, with guards **John Lucas, Lewis Lloyd** and **Allen Leavell,** are said to have one "L" of a backcourt this season.

* * *

Cleveland Cavaliers Coach **George Karl,** a psychology major from North Carolina and a philosophy fan, subscribes the following theory: "Consistency is something I love to have on my basketball team, but don't particularly want to have in my life."... With Indiana Coach **George Irvine** in his second year with the Pacers, players like 6-11 forward **Herb Williams** feel more relaxed with the club's system. "We understand George a lot better and we know what he and the coaching staff want from us," said Williams. "There was a feeling-out process last year. George was a new coach and we had a young team. This year, everybody's a year older and that's a big plus for us because there's no substitute for experience."... The creative promotion of the year thus far goes to the Atlanta Hawks and the **"Spud Webb** Postage Stamp Night."... **Clyde Drexler** of the Portland Trail Blazers, a former Houston native, is happy in his new surroundings. "I'm glad I went off to play in Portland because it has expanded my world," said Drexler. "I'm meeting new people and living in a beautiful part of the country. Right now, I'm just very happy to call myself a Blazer."

* * *

Michael Cooper of the LA Lakers was the happiest member of the club when starting guard **Magic Johnson** returned to the lineup after missing a few early season games. Cooper was asked to play 55 minutes in one of those contests. "Never in my life have I played that long in a game," said Cooper. "Maybe in a pick-up game, but then you can rest while you're playing. In an NBA game, you have to play hard all the time. I'm surprised I made it."... **Wayne Cooper** of the Denver Nuggets doesn't care if he's compared to the best centers in the NBA. "It's not one of my goals to be thought of as one of the greats," said Cooper. "I'd rather play up to my potential every game and win. I think I'm a winner, and I'd like to be thought of as a winner.

"WIVES ROOM"

Celtics Wives Can Have Their Own Set of Difficulties

by Wilma Mahoney

There is a small lounge tucked away in a corner of Boston Garden. Admission is strictly limited to those few select individuals whose association with the Celtics provides the team with a special reason to play harder and do their best on the court. Although no sign marks the entrance to this exclusive place, it is known to those who frequent it as the "Wive's Room".

Recently Celtics Pride had the opportunity to visit the wives room pre-game. Lynn McHale and Nancy Parish were on hand and graciously consented to answer a few questions for us.

Celtics Pride - How did you meet you husbands?

Lynn - Kevin and I grew up together in Minnesota. We've been together for over nine years and married for three.

Nancy - I met Robert on a blind date at Jason's five years ago.

"There is no way we can make our husbands invisible, especially with Kenin and Robert being as tall as they are."

...Nancy Parish

Celtics Pride - What do you do with your time?

Lynn - All I've ever wanted to be is a good wife and mother. We have two children (Kristyn, age 2 and Michael, 8 months) and I spend most of my time with them. They need stability. It's hard to explain why Daddy isn't home every night when Kevin's on the road. When he's home, we both spend a lot of time with them. I love being out, so I get out the double stroller and we take walks and window shop. I also have the children enrolled in play groups, where I sometimes drop them off for an hour so I can take an aerobics class. I also play piano. I would like to get a job when the children are older, but right now I wouldn't do it.

Nancy - I'm a songwriter and singer. I recently started taking piano lessons, which I love, and I'm rehearsing with a twelve piece jazz/funk group which will begin live performances in April. Robert is very intense and loves his space. He and our son Justin like spending time together, so if I can do my own thing sometimes, it's good for both of us.

Celtics Pride - Do the wives get involved in any charities as a group?

Lynn - Kim Wedman is very involved in Special Olympics. The rest of us all have our own special charities. The only thing we do as a group is a Special Olympics benefit fashion show, which will be held in March.

Nancy has many talents from piano to Martial Arts.

Lynn obviously has great taste in reading.

Celtics Pride - Many fans idolize the Celtics and think that you must lead very exciting lives. Do you agree?

Nancy - The money, of course, is very exciting...

Lynn - But it's also very short-term. Our husbands make a lot of money, but their careers are brief.

Nancy - They cannot go anywhere without being recognized, that includes the islands, Europe, China. They are constantly in the limelight. The players practically live together on the road and are a family. It's sometimes hard to read things about your husband or friends in the papers. It's hard for us...knowing your husband won't be home for Christmas. The wives get along because we can emphathize with each other. We can understand what the others are going through. Not that we all sit together and complain, but it helps to know that you're not the only one going through this.

Celtics Pride - Do you have a difficult time maintaining your own identities?

Nancy - This is a very tough thing to deal with. When you walk into a room for a function and you get pushed aside and stepped on, it's hard.

Lynn - I know that I won't be accepted as Kevin's equal, but I don't like being looked down upon. I don't like being totally ignored and I didn't like it when I was eight months pregnant and people would push me aside to get at Kevin. Sometimes I can deal with it, but other times it's very hard to be ignored.

Nancy - If you know who you are and always remember that, then you never feel that you are anybody's shadow. You always have your own shadow to cast and that's always been my savior.

Celtics Pride - Because of the huge popularity of the Celtics and their high recognition factor, what difficulties do you and your families encounter when out in public?

Nancy - Robert is just so visible. Last summer we went to Disney World with our son and his friend. We couldn't walk five feet without someone bothering us. There was a whole tour group, about sixty or seventy people from Japan. They abandoned Magic Mountain when they saw Robert and stood in line for his autograph; it took him at least forty-five minutes to sign them. By the third night, Robert asked me to take the children into the park. By the time Justin would say "Daddy, let's go on this ride," Daddy would be surrounded by people asking for autographs and pictures.

Lynn - Kevin was out with our children last week picking apples, when someone asked for an autograph. If he signs one, he has to sign a million, so he politely said he'd be happy to shake their hand, but he wasn't signing autographs that day, because he was taking a day off with his family. The fan got really offended. There are some days when I want my husband to be with us, without being bothered. Don't I deserve that?

Nancy - There is no way we can make our husbands invisible, especially with Kevin and Robert being as tall as they are.

Lynn - When Kevin and I first came to Boston, we always said we would never stop going places because of this. We just decided that we would live with it and pretend it didn't exist. More and more, I notice that Kevin is leary of going out. As soon as he walks into a store he's mobbed. I realize the fans feel that they own a part of him, but it's really not fair to us when we can't have any privacy.

Nancy - It's not fair, but it's all part of the reality of who they are and what they do. We have to understand that these people idolize our husbands. You must remember who you are and realize that your husband may have to go off and deal with fifty people, but when it's over, you will leave together and go home together and be all right together.

Celtics Pride - What happens to you and your families when the playing careers are over?

Lynn - It's going to be really strange. We're going to move back to Minnesota, unless a job comes up here for Kevin that's too good to pass up. Both our families are there and we'd like our kids to be close to their grandparents. We will probably open a small business. It's going to be a whole different thing...after a while, no-one will recognize him. Part of it will be great, but part of it will be very weird too. It's hard when you're just a member of the team, not a Doctor J or a Larry Bird. Their names will always live on.

Nancy - Robert has gotten involved in real estate. He's started his own company and finds it very rewarding. With my music, I think it will really work out well for us.

Celtics Pride - Any message for the Boston fans?

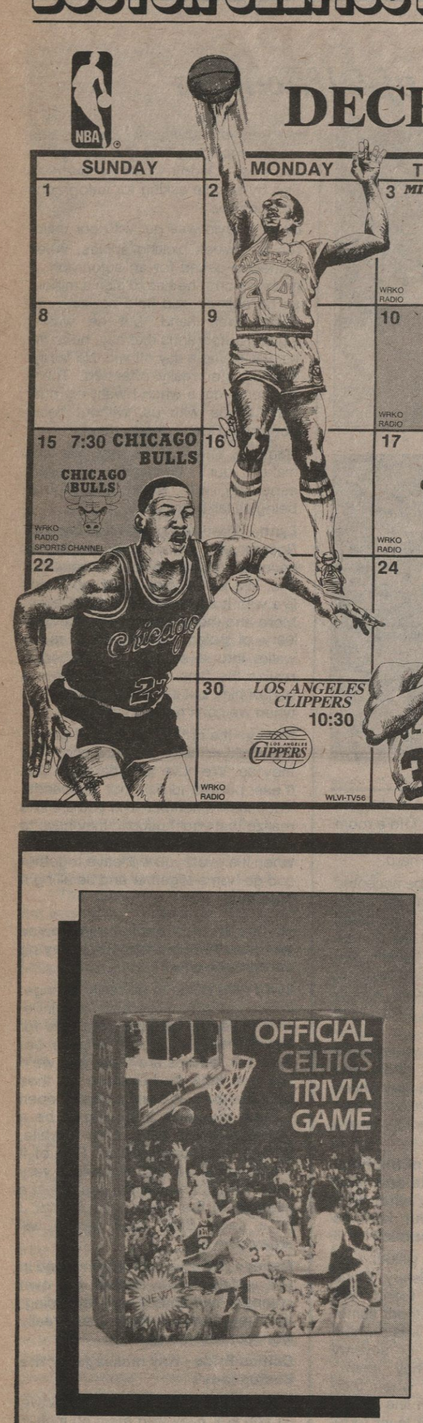
Nancy - Please remain as supportive as you are. Stay with them no matter how they do...and remember, they are only human, no perfect.

DECEMBER

HOME AND AWAY SCHEDULE...
Home games

BOSTON CELTICS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3 MILWAUKEE BUCKS 8:30 WRKO RADIO WLVI-TV56	4 NEW JERSEY NETS 7:30 WRKO RADIO WLVI-TV56	5	6 portland trailblazers 7:30 WRKO RADIO SPORTS CHANNEL	7
8	9	10 Atlanta Hawks 7:30 WRKO RADIO PLAYED IN HARTFORD SPORTS CHANNEL	11 SACRAMENTO KINGS 7:30 WRKO RADIO SPORTS CHANNEL	12	13	14 CLEVELAND CAVALIERS 8:00 WRKO RADIO WLVI-TV56
15 7:30 CHICAGO BULLS WRKO RADIO SPORTS CHANNEL	16	17 CHICAGO BULLS 8:30 WRKO RADIO WLVI-TV56	18 DALLAS MAVERICKS 7:30 WRKO RADIO SPORTS CHANNEL	19	20	21 PHILADELPHIA 76ers 8:00 WRKO RADIO WLVI-TV56
22	23	24	25 NEW YORK KNICKERBOCKERS 3:30 WRKO RADIO WLVI-TV56	26	27	28 UTAH JAZZ 9:30 WRKO RADIO WLVI-TV56
29	30 LOS ANGELES CLIPPERS 10:30 WRKO RADIO WLVI-TV56	31				



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4. In 1980 two Celtics retired from basketball, a center and a guard. The center was Dave Cowens. Who was the guard?
5. Who said "I could take 4 guys off the street in Petersburg (Virginia) and beat them (the Celtics)"?
6. Who said, "I'm going to look awfully silly if he stuffs the ball and *me* through the hoop!"

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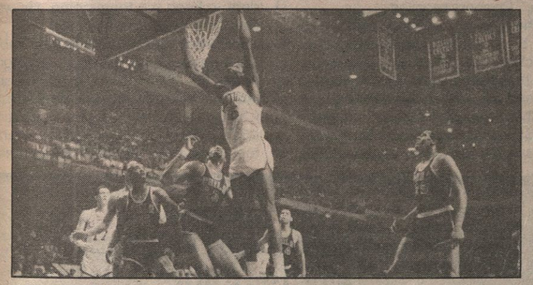
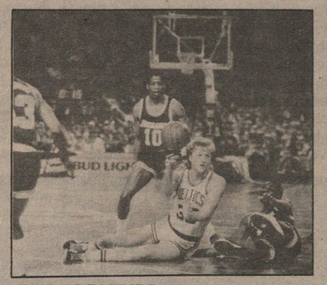
On Wednesday, November 6, 1985, all of the members of the Celtics family gathered at a gala celebration of the organization's new association with WLVI-TV (Channel 56 in Boston), which will be telecasting all the Celtics' away games for the next five years.

The party was held in the American Ballroom at the Westin Hotel in Boston.

PHOTO FEATURE OF THE MONTH



(A) RUSSELL - CHAMBERLAIN



(B) LARRY BIRD

(C) DANNY AINGE

(D) DAVE COWENS - DOUG COLLINS

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Celtics Classics

The First Home Game in Celtics History

Believe it or not, the first home game in Celtics history wasn't played at the parquet-floored Boston Garden.

The Celtics did play 30 of their home matches at the Garden in their maiden season of 1946-47, but seven times during that year, the Garden was booked for other events. That forced the green-and-whites to move to the cramped Boston Arena.

To put it mildly, the Arena wasn't exactly the state-of-the-art hoop house. Celtics Coach John "Honey" Russell had been to the place before.

"The first time I went there," Russell said at the time, "we walked on to the court a half-hour before the game started, the place was ice cold from the ice beneath the floor, the lighting was terrible and the baskets were installed upside down."

When the Celtics faced the Chicago Stags on November 5, 1946, the arena was still freezing and the lighting still awful, but the baskets were set up properly. However, one of them wasn't left standing very long.

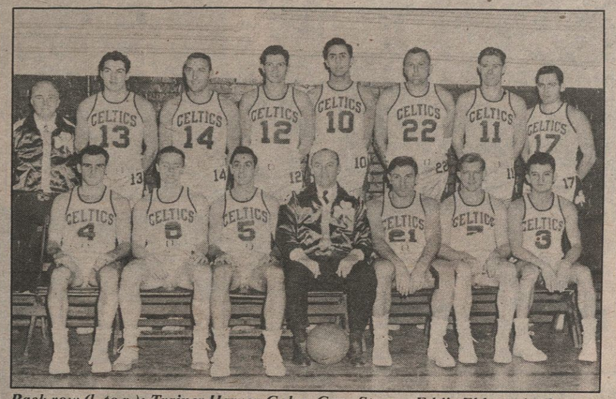
The center jump was scheduled for 8:30, but that was pushed back an hour by Chuck Connors, who would later go on to fame as TV's "The Rifleman". A set shot by Connors demolished the glass backboard (which was a recent invention in those days), so the 4,329 fans who assembeled at the Arena got to see pro basketball's first backboard smash.

The Celtics, donned in their white T-shirts and shorts with green trim and lettering, a shamrock on each hip, white socks with green stripes and black, leather knee pads, were less than a smash once the game against the Stags began. And as it turned out, things didn't get much better as the season progressed.

Chicago beat Boston, 57-55, even though the Celtics led by five points at halftime. Now a five-point lead at the half may not sound like much these days, but in the old days, with less-than-dead-eye shooting and no 24-second clock, baskets were hard to come by.

Max Zaslofsky led the Stags with 28 points. Johnny Simmons led the Celts with 13 points and Wyndol Gray added 12.

Three days earlier at the Rhode Island Auditorium at Providence, the Celtics had made their debut against the Providence Steamrollers. They lost that one, too, 57-53. Mike "Red" Wallace led the Celtics with nine points, as no Boston player reached double-figures.



Back row (l. to r.): Trainer Harvey Cohn, Gene Stump, Eddie Ehlers, Art Spector, Connie Simmons, Ed Sadowski, chuck Connors, John Janisch
Front row (l. to r.): Sol Mariaschin, George Munroe, Cecil Hankins, Coach Honey Russell, Dutch Garfinkle, Mel Riebe, Chuck Hoefer.

Boston was to lose many more games that season, winding up last in the Eastern Division with a 22-38 record, 27 games out of first place.

One of the more embarrassing losses took place against the St. Louis Bombers. Boston had the lead with less than a minute to go in the game, and Russell dispatched Al Brightman to control the ball and protect the advantage. But Brightman reported to the St. Louis broadcaster, instead of the official scorer, an act which netted him a technical foul. The Bombers made the free throw.

With five seconds left, the Celtics still were on top. But a Boston player fell while dribbling the ball, and a Bomber picked it up and fired a desperation shot to tie the score and send the game into overtime. The Celtics eventually lost, 64-62.

"As a basketball team, we weren't much," Connors recalled.

The players weren't paid much back then, either. The Basketball of Association of American rules stipulated that each player was to be paid between $3,000 to $10,000 a year and that team payrolls not be more than $55,000. See? Even in '46-47, the salary cap was around. The average salary hovered around $5,000.

Although basketball was invented at nearby Springfield, it was many years before Bostonians warmed up to pro basketball. Boston was hockey country, and the interest generated by basketball went to Holy Cross, a collegiate power at the time. The top home crowd at the Garden in 1946-47 was 6,327--5,276 attended the Celtics' first home victory at the Garden. They beat the Toronto Huskies, 55-49, on November 16.

In 30 home dates, Boston averaged 3,608 fans.

"Our crowds at the Garden and the Arena were pretty small," said Art Spector, one of the orginal Celts. "But the people who came out were loyal fans. We were scared that we weren't going to make it and that the league might fall apart. We felt if we could survive the first season, the games would catch on in Boston."

The Celtics lost some $125,000 that initial season, but owner Walter Brown was determined to keep the franchise alive and see that it would succeed.

"There wouldn't have been a Celtics without Walter Brown," Spector said. He went into great personal debt to keep the team going. He was Boston's most valuable asset."

Connie Simmons was the most valuable Celtic on the floor, Simmons averaged 10.3 points a game, and led the Celts in field goal percentage (.320) and free throw shooting (.677). Simmons was also Boston's top assist man, with 62 in 60 games.

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Celtics Greats – Past and Present

Putting His Degree to Good Use

Steve Kuberski

Many ex-Celtics such as Don Chaney, Don Nelson, Chris Ford, Tommy Heinsohn and Bill Russell have settled into coaching careers after their playing days have concluded. But that wasn't the route former Boston forward Steve Kuberski decided to take.

"I could've done that, but I didn't have the desire," says Kuberski, who retired from the NBA in 1978. "I don't know why. I wasn't cut out for it."

Instead, Kuberski opted to enter private business. He's the owner of Pro-Quip, a Boston area firm which manufactures sports equipment such as lockers and shelves. Kuberski says he's quite busy and business is going well.

"I have no regrets that I didn't go into coaching," Kuberski says. "I wanted to pursue a sales career. I had to go out in the working world and make a living. I have a business degree with a concentration on marketing (from Bradley) and am finally putting it to use after nine years in the NBA."

"I got a standing ovation when I got on the Garden floor, Heinsohn started me that game. It was very Gratifying."

Kuberski evisions himself as working man, which is fitting, considering he was a lunch-pail type performer in his playing days. The consumate role player, Kuberski was the type who didn't accumulate mind-bending statistics (his best statistical season: 1970-71, when he averaged 9.3 points and 6.6 rebounds a game), but always managed to contribute to the Boston cause. Kuberski was a member of the 1973-74 and 1975-76 Celtic championship teams.

"The main thing was to win, like you were driven," Kuberski says of those Boston teams. "To win the whole thing (the championship), not just to beat the Knicks or whoever. We took it game to game, but said the season wouldn't be finished until we won it all. Money wasn't a motivating factor."

Kuberski was a recycled Celtic--one of the few ever to play for the team on two separate occasions. He joined Boston as a rookie in 1969-70 and stayed until the 1973-74 season. He was left unprotected in the expansion draft and selected by the then-New Orleans Jazz. However, the Jazz traded him to the Milwaukee Bucks before the first game of the year.

Kuberski, who appeared in 10 games for the Buffalo Braves before rejoining the green-and-whites in '75-76, noted a major difference between the Celtics and the franchises for which he played.

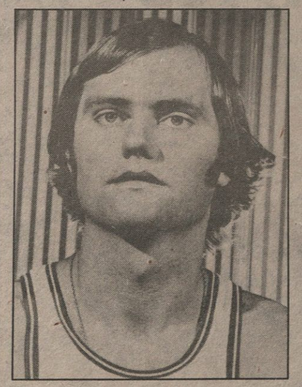
"We had the same nucleus the whole time I was with the Celtics," Kuberski said. "Milwuakee had free-agents and guys trying out every day. The Celtics didn't do that.

"This organization is different. Things aren't measured in individual accomplishments, but in terms of winning."

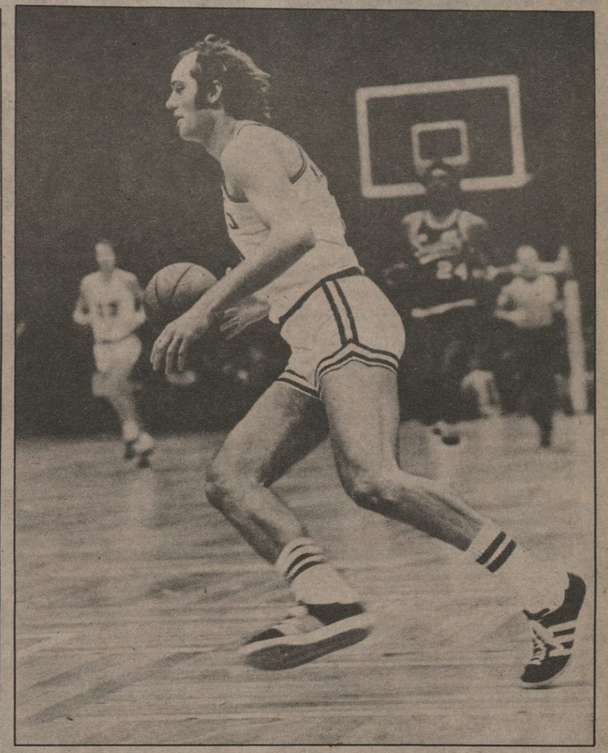
It was quite an adjustment when the 6-8 forward had to play against his former teammates.

"I knew we were in for a dog fight every time we played the Celtics," Kuberski says. "I knew they'd play relentless defense. I had to tell myself I wasn't on the Celtics anymore. It was hard."

However, Kuberski did come back to Boston after Milwaukee and Buffalo had released him. He called General Manager Red Auerbach, asking for a tryout. Auerbach ordered Kuberski in for a physical, he passed it, and became a Celt once again. His first game in his second go-round as a Celtics was quite memorable.



KUBERSKI: NO REGRETS



Steve was a member of two Celtics Championship teams.

"I got a standing ovation when I got on the Garden floor," Kuberski says. "Heinsohn started me that game. It was very gratifying."

Even more gratifying was the Celtics capture of another title that year.

"It gave me great pleasure that two teams quit on me, and that I could be an integral part of a championship team," Kuberski says.

Less memorable was Kuberski's final season with the Celtics. Heinsohn was fired after an 11-23 start, and Satch Sanders took over and guided the team to a final record of 30-52. Kuberski played only three games and 14 minutes to end his career.

"I had a broken hand in training camp and came back in December," Kuberski says. "I was asked to either retire or be released. I didn't want to push it--I wanted to go with dignity. It was a bad situation, one I'd never experienced before.

"Guys you wouldn't even associate with the Celtics (Kuberski cited Curtis Rowe and Sidney Wicks and others) were on the team."

Kuberski sees plenty of the current edition of the Celtics. He attends games at the Garden frequently and catches many games on television. He notices some differences in today's brand of NBA ball.

"I played power forward at 6-8, and that doesn't compare to the guys the way they are today," says Kuberski, who lives in Winchester. "Six-nine isn't unusual for some guards.

"The defenses have changed. We used to play a relentless, full-court press and guards, for wards and centers pressed. They don't do that anymore. You can't get guys to pay the price anymore. Why, I don't know. Now it's all team defense."

With that, Kuberski's thoughts shifted to his plans for the future.

"I'd like to be an instant millionaire like anyone else," he says. "But I've got to go about it the old-fashioned way--I have to earn it. My company's doing well and I'm making more money than I did playing ball. You never know."

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